DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 332 997 SP 033 143

TITLE	Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association (DSSAA) 25th Annual Official Handbook, 1990-1991.
INSTITUTION	Delaware State Dept. of Public Instruction, Dover.
PUB DATE	91
NOTE	57p.
PUB TYPE	Guides - Non-Classroom Use (055)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC03 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*Athletics; *Educational Principles; Guidelines; Intermediate Grades; Middle Schools; Secondary Education
IDENTIFIERS	*Delaware; *Rules and Regulations

ABSTRACT

This handbook contains a list of member institutions in Delaware, a statement of 10 cardinal athletic principles, and the constitution and by-laws of the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association (DSSAA). The articles of the constitution cover objectives, membership, administration, meetings, eligibility rules, responsibilities of school heads, rules, and amendments. The by-laws cover the sportsmanship rule, processing violations of the sportsmanship rule, senior high school interscholastic athletic eligibility rules, and junior high/middle school interscholastic athletic eligibility rules. The appendix provides information on the waiver, appeal, and investigative procedures. (AMH)

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DSSAA
25th Annual
Official Handbook

1990-1991

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NOTE: This edition of the DSSAA Handbook contains changes in the areas listed below:

SECTION III BYLAWS

Junior High/Middle Schools

RULE 28. WRESTLING WEIGHT CONTROL CODE.—Add new sentence to Paragraphs C. and D. (pg. 48

DELAWARE SECONDARY SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Chairman — Rudolph Karkosak
Wilmington High School

Vice Chairman — Michael Hart
Salesianum School

Executive Director — Dale C. Farmer
Townsend Building
Dover, Delaware 19901

PUBLIC SCHOOL MEMBERS

NEW CASTLE COUNTY

		Terms Expire
Dr. Frank J. Furgele	Superintendent, Brandywine School District	1992
Dr. Ronald Mersky	Superintendent, Appoquinimink School District	1991
Dr. James W. Kent	School Board Member, Christina School District	1991
Rudolph Karkosak	Principal, Wilmington High School, Red Clay Consolidated School District	1992
Wilbert Miller	Principal, Marguerite H. Burnett Jr. High School, Brandywine School District	1992
Pete Ferrario	Athletic Director, Wilmington High School, Red Clay Consolidated School District	1991
Kathleen H. Wilbur	School Board Member, Colonial School District	1993

KENT COUNTY

Dr. Wayne Barton	Superintendent, Smyrna School District	1992
Lynn M. Hitchens	School Board Member, Milford School District	1991
David E. Robinson	Principal, Caesar Rodney High School, Caesar Rodney School District	1993
James Harvey	Athletic Director, Caesar Rodney High School, Caesar Rodney School District	1993

SUSSEX COUNTY

(Vacant)	School Board Member	1992
Margaret Peck	Athletic Director, Cape Henlopen High School, Cape Henlopen School District	1992
Dr. Russell H. Knorr	Superintendent, Seaford School District	1993
Dr. Lewis Patterson	Principal, Indian River High School, Indian River School District	1991

NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL MEMBERS

Rev. Michael T. Collins	Assistant Principal, Archmere Academy	1993
Michael Hart	Athletic Director, Salesianum High School	1991

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Dr. Carol O'Neill Mayhew	State Director of Instruction, Instructional Services Branch	(Indefinite)
Dale C. Farmer	State Supervisor of Interscholastic Athletics, Non-Voting Member	(Indefinite)

DELAWARE SECONDARY SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

MEMBER SCHOOLS

School	*Chief School Officer*	*Principal*
APPOQUINIMINK SCHOOL DISTRICT, 4th & Main Streets, Odessa 19730	Dr. Ronald Mersky Superintendent	
1. Middletown High School, 504 S. Broad Street, Middletown 19709		Valerie Woodruff
2. ARCHMERE ACADEMY, Philadelphia Pike, Claymont 19703		Rev. Joseph McLaughlin
BRANDYWINE SCHOOL DISTRICT, Pennsylvania Ave., Claymont 19703	Dr. Frank Furgele	
3. Brandywine High School, 1400 Foulk Road, Wilmington 19803		Dr. Lawrence A. Hobdell
4. Concord High School, 2501 Ebright Road, Wilmington 19810		Thomas H. Ramsay
5. Mt. Pleasant High School, Washington St. Ext. & Marsh Road, Wilmington 19809		Quinton Sterling
6. Marguerite H. Burnett Junior High School, 37th & Franklin Place, Wilmington 19802		Wilbert Miller
7. Hanby Jr. High School, 2523 Berwyn Road, Wilmington 19810		Thomas H. Adams

School	*Chief School Officer*	*Principal*
8. Talley Jr. High School, 1110 Cypress Road, Wilmington 19810		Robert G. Cline
CAESAR RODNEY SCHOOL DISTRICT, Old North Road, Box 188, Camden-Wyoming 19934	Dr. William J. Bach	
9. Caesar Rodney Senior High School, 239 Old North Road, Camden-Wyoming 19934		David E. Robinson
10. Caesar Rodney Junior High School, 25 E. Camden-Wyoming Ave., Camden-Wyoming 19934		Gerald Buckworth
11. Dover Air Force Base Junior High School, Hawthorne Drive, Dover 19901		Charles Szvitich
CAPE HENLOPEN SCHOOL DISTRICT, Nassau 19969	Dr. James Wilson	
12. Cape Henlopen High School, Savannah Road, Lewes 19958		John H. Kreitzer
13. Lewes Junior High School, Savannah Road, Lewes 19958		Hubert Mock
14. Milton Junior High School, 512 Federal Street, Milton 19968		William Howell
15. Rehoboth Junior High School, Silver Lake, Rehoboth Beach 19971		Orville D. Basinski

School	Chief School Officer	Principal
CAPITAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, 945 Forrest St., Dover 19901	Dr. Edward Goaté	
16. Dover High School, 625 Walker Rd., Dover 19901		Patrick Lynn
17. Dover Central Middle School, Delaware Avenue, Dover 19901		Dr. John A. Leone
CHRISTINA SCHOOL DISTRICT, 83 East Main Street, Newark 19711	Dr. Iris Metts	
18. Christiana High School, Salem Church Rd., Newark 19711		Richard L. Kapolka
19. Glasgow High School, 1901 S. College Ave., Newark 19702		Robert Anderson
20. Newark High School, East Delaware Ave., Newark 19711		Frank Hagen
COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, 318 E. Basin Road, New Castle 19720	Dr. David C. Campbell	
21. William Penn High School, Basin Rd., New Castle 19720		William C. Roberts (Interim)
22. George Read Middle School, Basin Rd., New Castle 19720		Gregory E. Thornton
23. Gunning Bedford Middle School, Cox Neck Rd., Delaware City 19706		Daniel M. Poorman
24. New Castle Middle School, 9th & Delaware Sts. New Castle 19720		Delvin D. Burns

School	*Chief School Officer*	*Principal*
DELMAR SCHOOL DISTRICT, 8th & Jewell Sts., Delmar 19940	Dr. Wayne Bastian	
25. Delmar High School, 8th & Jewell Sts., Delmar 19940		Richard W. Stahl
26. FERRIS SCHOOL FOR BOYS, Centre & Faulkland Rds., Wilmington 19805	Richard A. Shaw	Don Sissom
INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT, R.D. 2, Box 236, Frankford 19945	Dr. Charles R. Hudson	
27. Indian River High School, Frankford 19945		Dr. Lewis Patterson
28. Sussex Central Senior High School, W. Market Street, Georgetown 19947		John McCarthy
29. Sussex Central Junior High School, State Street, Millsboro 19966		Robert Powell
30. Selbyville Middle School, Selbyville 19975		Howard Gerken
LAKE FOREST SCHOOL DISTRICT, Dorman Street, Harrington 19952	Dr. James H. VanSciver	

School	Chief School Officer	Principal
31. Lake Forest High School, RD 1, Felton 19943		Ronald L. Burrows
32. William T. Chipman Junior High School, Center Street, Harrington 19952		Marjorie Davis
LAUREL SCHOOL DISTRICT, 815 Central Avenue, Laurel 19956	Dr. Richard T. Walker	
33. Laurel Senior High School, 1133 S. Central Avenue, Laurel 19956		Larry E. Harrison
34. Laurel Central Middle School, 801 Central Ave., Laurel, 19956		Edward Taylor
MILFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT, 906 Lakeview Avenue, Milford 19963	Charles E. Moses	
35. Milford Senior High School, 1019 N. Walnut Street, Milford 19963		Robert Rescigno
36. Milford Middle School, Lakeview Avenue, Milford 19963		Dr. Gary Annett
37. NEW CASTLE BAPTIST MIDDLE SCHOOL 901 East Basin Rd., New Castle 19720		Dr. James R. Murphy
NEW CASTLE COUNTY VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, 1417 Newport Rd., Wilmington 19804	Dr. Dennis L. Loftus	

School	Chief School Officer	Principal
38. Delcastle Technical High School, 1417 Newport Rd., Wilmington 19804		LeeRoy DeShazor
39. Paul M. Hodgson Vocational-Technical High School, 2527 Summit Bridge Rd., Newark 19702		Joseph P. Ambrosino
40. Howard Career Center, 401 East 12th St., Wilmington 19802		Gordon B. Sanders
41. PADUA ACADEMY, 905 N. Broom St., Wilmington 19806	Sister Marie Kelly	Rev. Francis Hanlon, O.S.F.S.
RED CLAY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT, 1400 Washington St., Wilmington 19801	Dr. Joseph Johnson	
42. Alexis I. duPont High School, 50 Hillside Rd., Greenville 19807		Alfred D. DiEmedio
43. John Dickinson High School, 1801 Milltown Rd., Wilmington 19808		William T. Cohee
44. Thomas McKean High School, 301 McKennan's Church Road, Wilmington 19808		Joseph P. Lavelle
45. Wilmington High School, Lancaster Ave., & duPont Rd., Wilmington 19807		Rudolph Karkosak
46. ST. ELIZABETH HIGH SCHOOL, Cedar & Rodney Streets, Wilmington 19805	Sister Marie Kelly	Sister Mary Ellen Hussey, OSB
47. ST. MARK'S HIGH SCHOOL, Pike Creek Rd., Wilmington 19808	Sister Marie Kelly	Ronald R. Russo

School	Chief School Officer	Principal
48. SALESIANUM SCHOOL, 18th & Broom Sts., Wilmington 19802		Rev. Richard N. Grant, O.S.F.S.
SEAFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT, Delaware Place, Seaford, 19973	Dr. Russell H. Knorr	
49. Seaford Senior High School, North Market Street, Seaford 19973		Chester A. Baltz
50. Seaford Middle School, Stein Highway, Seaford 19973		Earl M. Cannon
SMYRNA SCHOOL DISTRICT, 22 S. Main St., Smyrna 19977	Dr. Wayne A. Barton (Acting)	
51. Smyrna High School, Duck Creek Parkway, Smyrna 19977		John Quarles
52. Smyrna Middle School, Frazier Street, Smyrna 19977		Beverly J. Rennie
53. URSULINE ACADEMY, 1106 Pennsylvania Ave., Wilmington 19806		Julia Mayer
WOODBRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT, 48 Church St., P.O. Box 427, Bridgeville 19933	Dr. Robert C. Sutton	
54. Woodbridge Jr./Sr. High School, 307 Laws Street, Bridgeville 19933		Milton F. Morozowich

ASSOCIATE MEMBER SCHOOLS

School	*Chief School Officer*	*Principal*
1. Caravel Academy, 2801 Del/Laws Rd., Bear 19701	P. Carl Rice, Headmaster	
2. The Independence School, 1300 Paper Mill Road, Newark, 19711	Kenneth M. Weinig, Headmaster	
3. St. Andrew's School, Middletown 19709	Jonathan B. O'Brien, Headmaster	
4. Sanford School, Lancaster Pike, Hockessin 19707	Gordon T. Schofield, Headmaster	
5. Tatnall School, 1501 Barley Mill Road, Wilmington 19807	William Ricketson, Jr., Headmaster	Mrs. Carl Kaufman
6. Tower Hill School, 2813 West 17th St., Wilmington 19806	Timothy B. Golding, Headmaster	
7. Wilmington Christian School, P.O. Box 626, Hockessin 19707		David N. Thompson
8. Wilmington Friends School, 101 School Road, Alapocas, Wilmington 19803	Dulany O. Bennett, Headmaster	

CARDINAL ATHLETIC PRINCIPLES

In order to be of maximum effectivness, the athletic program will:

1. Be closely coordinated with the general instructional program and properly articulated with other departments of the school.

2. Be sure that the number of students accommodated and the educational aims achieved justify the use of tax funds for its support and also justify use of other sources of income, provided the time and attention which is given to the collection of such funds is not such as to interfere with the efficiency of the athletic program or of any other department of the school.

3. Be based on the spirit of nonprofessionalism so that participation is regarded as a privilege to be won by training and proficiency and to be valued highly enough to eliminate any need for excessive use of adulatory demonstrations or of expensive prizes or awards.

4. Confine the school athletic activity to events which are sponsored and supervised by the proper school authorities so that exploitation or improper use of prestige built up by the school teams or members of such teams may be avoided.

5. Be planned so as to result in opportunity for many individuals to explore a wide variety of sports, and in reasonable season limits for each sport.

6. Be controlled so as to avoid elements of professionalism and commercialism which tend to grow up on connection with widely publicized "bowl" contests, barnstorming trips and interstate or intersectional contests which require excessive travel expense or loss of school time or which are bracketed with educational travel claims in an attempt to justify privileges for a few at the expense of decreased opportunity for many.

7. Be kept free from the type of contests which involve a gathering of so-called "all-stars" from different schools to participate in contests which may be used as a gathering place for representatives of certain colleges or professional organizations who are interested in soliciting athletic talent.

8. Include training in conduct and game ethics to reach all non-participating students and community followers of the school teams in order to insure a proper understnding and appreciation of the sports skills and of the need for adherence to principles of fair play and right prejudices.

9. Encourage a balanced program of intramural activity in grades below the ninth to make it unnecessary to sponsor contests of a championship nature in these grades.

10. Engender respect for the local, state and national rules and policies under which the school program is conducted.

As set forth in handbook of
National Federation of State High School Associations

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CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

Name

This organization shall be known at the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association functioning as a body under the auspices of the Delaware State Board of Education.

ARTICLE II

Objectives

1. To encourage athletics and control interscholastic competition.
2. To develop and direct a wholesome athletic program.
3. To initiate policies that will safeguard the educational values of school athletics.
4. To cultivate and stimulate fair play and good sportsmanship.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Section 1. **Full Member Schools**

A secondary school may become a full member school of the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association by payment of dues and signed affirmation of obligations of membership.

A full-member school is a non-voting member of the Association and does not participate in its day-to-day governance. A full-member school may at any time make appropriate recommendations for policy action to the Board of Directors of the Association for its consideration.

Section 2. **Dues**

A. Yearly dues for full member schools shall be:
Junior highs or middle schools shall be $100.
High schools with enrollments 999 or less shall be $200.
High schools with enrollments 1,000 plus shall be $300.
Pupil enrollments will be based on the preceding school year's September 30th enrollment.

B. Remittance shall be made each year not later than August 1. Full member schools failing to do this are automatically suspended for the remainder of the school year.

Section 3. **Associate Schools**

A. Any school, not a member school, located within the boundaries of the State of Delaware and containing grades 7 thru 12, or any grouping of junior or senior high schools therein or the equivalent of such grade levels of grouping, may apply for status as an associate school providing:

1. That the application set forth good cause and sufficient justification why such school cannot become a member school. The initial application may be submitted at anytime but renewal applications must be received in the DSSAA office no later than July 15 of the upcoming school year.

2. That the application contain a statement that such school will abide by the Constitution, Bylaws, rules and regulations of the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association, and in those cases wherein they cannot comply, the application must set forth the specific article, section, paragraph, subparagraph, rule, bylaw, etc. and a sufficiently acceptable explanation of why such cannot be kept in force or why the school is incapable of compliance. Full compliance will be made in the following Bylaws when an associate school competes with a full member school:

a. Age Participation, Rule #1, Subparagraph A.
b. Transfer, Rule #1, Subparagraph D.
c. Scholastic Eligibility Rule #3 and Rule #4.

d. Certificated Coaches Rule 19 (When any DSSAA exception to Rule 19 is granted, the associate-member school may not participate with any full-member school with the sports team where the exception has been granted).

B. Such associate schools, after initial approval, will be reviewed each year by a committee of at least three and no more than five members of the Board of Directors of the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association for the purpose of retaining, rejecting, or recommending approval as member schools.

Section 4. **Dues of Associate Schools**

A check covering the fee for associate schools shall accompany the application. Such fee is to be the same as the dues paid by full-member schools.

ARTICLE IV
Administration

Section 1. The affairs of the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association will be administered by a Board of Directors composed of the following:

A. School District Superintendents (Four members) – Two from New Castle County, and one each from Kent and Sussex counties. These representatives to be nominated by the Chief School Officers Association.

B. School District Board of Education (Four members) – Two from New Castle County, and one each from Kent and Sussex counties. These representatives to be nominated by the Delaware School Boards Association.

C. Public School Principals (Four members) – Three high school principals, one from each county, and one junior high school principal, representing the entire state. These representatives are to be nominated by the Delaware Association of Secondary School Principals.

D. Non-Public School Member Schools (Two members) – The two secondary representatives from the full-member and associate member nonpublic schools shall be selected from the full-member schools. One representative shall be a secondary school administrator and one representative shall be either an athletic director or coach.

E. Athletic Directors/Coaches (Three members) – One from each county representing the public schools to be nominated by the Delaware Association of Athletic Directors.

F. Department of Public Instruction (One member) – State Director of Instruction to serve as ex-officio member with full voting privileges.

G. A member who shall have three or more unexcused absences during a six-month period shall be replaced by the appropriate nominating group provided in Section 1. The nature of such absences shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

H. No school district or nonpublic school shall have more than two members on the Board of Directors.

Section 2. **Selection of Board of Directors**

The members of the Board of Directors shall be appointed by the State Board of Education at its meeting in April of each year. Nominations from the various organizations and groups shall be received by the first of April with appointment to the appropriate term to become effective at the conclusion of the regular Board meeting in May.

Section 3. **Term of Office of Board of Directors**

A. All members of the Board of Directors, with the exception of the State Director of Instruction who shall be a permanent member of the Board as long as he/she holds that position, shall be appointed in accordance with the following schedule:

1. Four superintendents shall be appointed for a three-year term.
2. Four local school district board members shall be appointed for a three-year term.

3. Four secondary school principals shall be appointed to a three-year term.

4. Three athletic directors/coaches shall be appointed to a three-year term.

5. Two non-public secondary school representatives shall be appointed to a three-year term.

B. No member of the Board of Directors shall be appointed to more than two consecutive terms or a total of six years.

C. In the case of a resignation, the appointee shall fill the unexpired term of the person being replaced. The person so appointed to an unexpired term may be considered for further appointment.

D. An individual may be considered for appointment following a one-year absence from the Board of Directors.

Section 4. **Election of Officers of the Board of Directors**

The officers of the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association shall be selected by the Board of Directors at its initial meeting following the appointment or reappointment of members by the State Board of Education.

Section 5. **Officers of the Board of Directors**

The officers of the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association Board of Directors shall be a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and the Executive Director.

The candidates for the elected offices shall be selected from the entire membership of the Board of Directors.

The officers shall perform the duties assigned to their offices.

The appointment of the Executive Director shall be subject to the approval of the State Board of Education. A person employed to devote all or part of his/her time as Executive Director shall be a member of the State Department of Public Instruction in the Instructional Services Branch.

The duties and responsibilities of the Executive Director include:

1. Send notices of meetings and related agenda to chief school officers, building heads, members of the Board of Directors and local Boards of Education.

2. Take minutes of all DSSAA meetings and distribute them to the same people identified in number one (1).

3. Collect dues and keep financial records.

4. Interpret rules and regulations and grant waivers of such rules and regulations. Any waiver granted shall be subject to review and approval by the Board of Directors at a subsequent or special meeting. All decisions or actions as noted above shall be documented and shall be a part of any hearing or appeal procedure.

5. Decide issues between Board of Directors' meetings. The Executive Director is authorized to initiate a review of, or fully investigate a reported violation of the Association's Constitution and Bylaws. Subsequent action by the Director might include an official warning, placement on probation, a fine, the imposing of sanctions or the suspension from participation for a designated period of time of a player, team, coach or official to ensure necessary, orderly and proper conduct of interscholastic competition.

6. See that Constitution amendments are presented in writing.

7. Submit to active member schools proposed amendments 30 days prior to date for action.

8. See that member schools file eligibility lists with the DSSAA office.

9. See that carbon copies of contracts are sent to the DSSAA office.

10. Carry on business of Board of Directors and Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association between meetings. The Executive Director shall review appropriate materials and rule on requests for waiver of the Transfer Rule between meetings of the Board of Directors. Matters related to curriculum or financial hardship, as identified in the DSSAA Handbook shall be decided by the Executive Director pending final approval by the Board of Directors. No school or individual would be penalized in any case in which the DSSAA Board reversed the earlier ruling of the Executive Director. In addition, the Executive Director shall administer the day-to-day operation of the organization, as outlined in the DSSAA Constitution.

11. Be available for the briefing of school board members at DSBA meetings and workshops.

12. Be available for presentations to local boards of education upon request.

13. Consider any additional forms of communication requested by boards of education.

14. Perform any other duties assigned by the Board of Directors.

Section 6. **Term of Office of Board of Directors' Officers**

The term of office for the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association Board of Directors shall be for a term of one year.

The term of office of the Executive Director shall be for an indefinite period, except that the Executive Director may be removed from office upon presentation and proof of specific charges of misconduct in office. Such charges shall be presented in writing by a member of the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association and an opportunity shall be given for the Executive Director to answer said charges. Such removal shall be by a vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the Board of Directors.

The term of office of each elected member of the Secondary School Athletic Association Board of Directors and each elected officer shall begin at the adjournment of the annual meeting.

Section 7. **Committee Appointments**

The Chairman of the Board of Directors shall appoint committees as deemed necessary.

Section 8. **Officials and Officiating**

The officiating of all interscholastic athletics between member schools shall be under the control of the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association which may include, but not be restricted to giving examinations, evaluation, game fees, number of officials per game, and assigning of officials. The Association shall promulgate rules and regulations that shall be mandatory on the respective officials associations.

ARTICLE V

Vacancies on Board of Directors

Vacancies occurring on the Board of Directors shall be filled in accordance with the procedures set forth in Article IV. The appropriate group shall submit nominations to the State Board of Education.

ARTICLE VI

Meetings

Section 1. Six regular meetings will be scheduled throughout the year, with an annual membership meeting in April.

Section 2. Special meetings may also be called at the discretion of the chairman.

Section 3. No official business shall be conducted without a quorum.

Section 4. A majority of the members of the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VII

Eligibility Rules

Section 1. Regulations governing eligibility shall be established and enforced by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Member school shall comply with the eligibility regulations of the Association and acceptance of membership shall be construed as an agreement to that effect.

ARTICLE VIII

Responsibilities, Powers, and Duties of Administrative Head of School

Section 1. The administrative head of each member school shall be responsible to the Board of Directors for all matters pertaining to the athletic relations for his school.

Such administrative head may delegate any powers, but such delegation shall not remove the responsibility for any infraction by the school of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association.

Section 2. The powers and duties of the administrative head of the member school shall be:

A. To have general control over all interscholastic athletics relations and athletic contests in which his school participates. This applies to athletics for boys and girls.

B. To sanction all interscholastic athletic contests in which the school participates. Any contest which is held without the sanction of the administrative head shall be reported to the Executive Director of the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association within a period of ten days.

C. To exclude any contestant because of improper conduct.

D. To exclude any contestant whose physical health would be jeopardized by such participation, because of illness or injury suffered, until such time as the contestant is declared physically fit by the school or attending physican.

E. To be responsible for the protection and well-being of all visitors and officials attending interscholastic athletic contests conducted by the school. Administrative heads of member schools will be expected to provide protection and in the absence of such provisions penalties will be imposed.

When a game is played at a neutral place, the administrative heads of the participating schools shall be held jointly responsible for the protection. In such case penalties may be imposed upon either or both of the schools.

F. To be responsible for the safety and protection of the schools' participants by providing them with safe and suitable uniforms and equipment.

G. To see that all contracts for athletic contests in which the school participates are in writing and bear a signature in keeping with Section 1 of this Article.

H. To designate a staff member of the school as the faculty manager of the teams representing the school, or serve as the faculty manager.

I. To see that an authorized representative accompanies the team or teams to all contests.

J. To be responsible for certifying in writing the eligibility of all contestants in accordance with the Bylaws of this Association.

K. To have such other powers concerning interscholastic athletics of the school as are in keeping with the growth and needs of the school and which are consistent with the provisions and spirit of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association.

L. To urge all students competing on interscholastic athletic teams to obtain medical accident insurance covering athletic competition.

ARTICLE IX

Rules and Bylaws

The Board of Directors shall, whenever appropriate, adopt, change, waive or modify designated rules, regulations and bylaws for the management of interscholastic athletics among member schools. The Board of Directors shall have authority to waive and interpret its rules and regulations.

Any proposed changes to rules, regulations and bylaws shall first be proposed and read at a scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors. All member schools shall then be advised in writing of any changes. After consideration of written comments received from member schools, the Board of Directors shall take appropriate action at its next meeting. If approved by the DSSAA Board, the proposed changes will be submitted to the State Board of Education for administrative review and approval. The full member schools of the Association will have an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed changes at the annual meeting in April.

ARTICLE X

Amendments

Section 1. Proposed amendments to the Constitution may be made at any meeting of the Board of Directors. All member schools shall then be advised in writing of any proposals. The Board of Directors may take appropriate action at its next scheduled meeting.

Section 2. Any active member of the Association may propose an amendment to the Constitution. Such proposals shall be in writing and shall be presented to the Executive Director of the Association. The full member schools of the Association will have an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed changes at the annual meeting in April.

Section 3. All amendments to this Constitution shall require for passage the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting at which the vote is taken. No vote shall be taken unless a majority of the Board of Directors is present.

Section 4. No future amendments shall become effective until approved by the State Board of Education.

SECTION I. BYLAWS

Sportsmanship Rule

Member schools are required to conduct all their relations with other schools in a spirit of good sportsmanship. Acts which are prima facie evidence of failure to abide by this rule are those which are noted below and others of a similar nature which transgress the usually accepted code for good sportsmanship.

I. Failure to provide for proper control of spectators at a contest. Where the number of spectators is expected to be large in relation to the facilities for seating the crowd, uniformed state, county, or local police available for control shall be provided. It is expected that the home school shall have taken reasonable and proper steps that would be expected to assure proper control of spectators under any foreseeable conditions.

II. Failure of any team or competitor to stay in a contest until its normal end when the failure to do so is related to dissatisfaction with the officiating of the contest, unless the physical safety of the team or competitor would have been endangered by continuing the contest.

III. Harrassment of game officials by a coach. Going on the floor or field to interrupt a contest in protest of a decision by an official; conduct which invokes a penalty against the team because of the conduct of a coach or team member or any individual in the official party of a team; *continued* and visible actions on the part of a coach which will indicate to team members and/or to spectators that the coach believes the game is being improperly officiated; public demonstrations with game officials which indicate to others *extreme* dissatisfaction with officiating; and such related actions when exhibited in aggravated form are evidence of poor sportsmanship.

IV. Failure of a school to use every means at its disposal to impress upon its faculty, student body, team members, coaching staff and officials the values of sportsmanship in the preparation for, and the conduct and management of, interscholastic contests. It is recommended that the host school read a brief statement concerning sportsmanship prior to the start of each athletic contest.

V. Failure of an administrator, athletic director, spectator, athlete, coach or official to follow those directions provided for in the Code of Interscholastic Athletics:

CODE FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

A. The School Administrator and Athletic Director shall:
   (1) Encourage and promote friendly relationships and good sportsmanship throughout the school by requiring courtesy and proper decorum at all times, by acquainting students and *others in the community* with ideals of good sportsmanship, and by so publicizing these concepts and attitudes that all members of the school community will understand and appreciate their meaning.
   (2) Review with all athletic staff the Sportsmanship Rule.
   (3) Insist upon implicit compliance with all rules and regulations of the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association.
   (4) Insist upon adequate safety provisions for all activities, for both participants and spectators.
   (5) Encourage all to judge the success of the athletic program on the basis of the attitude of the participants and spectators, rather than on the basis of the number of games won or lost.
   (6) Insist that all participants exemplify the highest standard of good sportsmanship as a means of ensuring desirable spectator attitudes.
   (7) Provide adequate hygienic, sanitary and attractive facilities for the dressing and housing of visiting teams and officials.

B. The Spectator shall:
   (1) Realize that he represents the school just as definitely as does the member of a team, and, therefore, has an obligation to be a true sportsman, encouraging through this behavior the practice of good sportsmanship by others.
   (2) Recognize that good sportsmanship is more important than victory by approving and applauding good team play, individual skill and outstanding examples of sportsmanship and fair play exhibited by either team.

The following are some examples of poor sportsmanship which shall not be tolerated:

a) Profanity, vulgarity, obscene gestures, abusive language and/or derogatory remarks.

b) Throwing objects.

c) Going on the floor or field and interrupting a contest.

d) Use of alcohol or other controlled substances.

(3) Respect the judgement and integrity of officials, realizing that their decisions are based upon game conditions as they observe them.

(4) Treat visiting teams and officials as guests, extending to them every courtesy.

(5) Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.

C. Participants (Athletes and Cheerleaders) shall:

(1) Have a responsibility for the perpetuation of interscholastic athletics. Work to enhance the image of athletics not only as a team member but also as a school and community citizen.

(2) Be courteous to visiting teams. Your opponents wish to excel as much as you do; respect their efforts.

(3) Play hard and to the limit of your ability, regardless of discouragement. The true athlete does not give up, nor does he quarrel, cheat, bet or grandstand.

(4) Be modest when successful and be gracious in defeat. A true sportsman does not offer excuses for failures.

(5) Understand and observe the rules of the game and the standard of eligibility.

(6) Respect the integrity and judgement of officials and accept their decisions without question.

(7) Respect the facilities of host schools and the trust entailed in being a guest.

D. The Coach shall:

(1) Demonstrate high ideals, good habits and desirable attitudes in personal and professional behavior and demand the same standards of the players.

(2) Recognize that the purpose of competition is to promote the physical, mental, social and emotional well-being of the individual players and that the most important values of competition are derived from playing the game fairly.

(3) Be a modest winner and a gracious loser.

(4) Maintain self-control at all times, accepting adverse decisions without public display of emotion or of dissatisfaction with the officials. Register disagreement through proper channels.

(5) Employ accepted educational methods in coaching, giving all players an opportunity to use and develop initiative, leadership and judgement.

(6) Pay close attention to the physical condition and well-being of players, refusing to jeopardize the health of an individual for the sake of improving his team's chances to win.

(7) Teach athletes that it is better to lose fairly than win unfairly.

(8) Discourage gambling, profanity, abusive language and similar violations of the true sportsman's code.

(9) Refuse to disparage an opponent, an official or others associated with sports activities and discourage gossip and questionable rumors concerning them.

(10) Properly supervise student athletes under his immediate care.

E. The Official shall:

(1) Know the rules and their interpretations and be thoroughly trained to administer them.

(2) Maintain self-control under all conditions.

(3) When enforcing the rules, do not make gestures or comments that will embarrass the players or coaches.

(4) Be impartial and fair, yet firm, in all decisions. A good official does not attempt to compensate later for an unpopular decision.

(5) Refrain from commenting upon or discussing a team, play or game situation with those not immediately concerned.

(6) So conduct the games as to enlist the cooperation of players, coaches and spectators in the interest of good sportsmanship.

Processing Violations of the Sportsmanship Rule

A. **Procedures.**

1. Within 10 calendar days of an alleged incident, unsportsmanship action must be reported in writing to the Executive Director by the administrative head (principal) of any member school or by the Executive Committee of any officials' group.
2. The Executive Director shall transmit a copy of the report to the principal of the school or schools involved.
3. Each principal concerned shall investigate and report such information or answers to the reports as are appropriate.
4. DSSAA will provide schools and officials with specially designed forms to facilitate the proper reporting of possible violations.
5. Upon receipt of all reports, the Executive Director shall review copies of all documents, advising of any suggestions made to the school or schools involved. The Executive Director may, in turn, refer the matter to the Sportsmanship Committee to investigate and adjudicate what appears to be a violation of this rule. The executive director is specifically directed to pursue any items which, on the surface, have implications of being sportsmanship violations.
6. The Sportsmanship Committee shall review such available evidence as it deems necessary to reach a conclusion. Actions such as seeking reports and holding interviews are not to be interpreted in any way as casting reflections upon a school adhering to DSSAA regulations, but as an effort to keep all parties properly informed. Penalties up to and including suspensions of member schools may be imposed by the Sportsmanship Committee.
7. A copy of the Sportsmanship Committee's action shall be filed with the Executive Director and the administrative head of any school or schools involved.

B. **Policies**

The basis for the following policy statement is that a member school shall not be represented by those whose conduct reflects discredit upon the school. Insofar as unsportsmanlike actions by participants are concerned, the identified items under the Sportsmanship Rule along with the following guides will be referred to by the Sportsmanship Committee:

1. The school whose coach behaves in a manner likely to have adverse influence on the attitudes of players or spectators may be provided with the choice of:
   a. reprimanding its coach and providing written documentation to the Executive Director, or;
   b. suspending its coach from representing that school in athletic events for a specified period of time up to one year, or;
   c. having the entire school disciplined by DSSAA.
2. An athlete will not strike an official, opponent, coach or spectator or display gross misconduct prior to, during, or following an athletic event. The athlete, depending on the seriousness of the act, may be declared ineligible by the principal, Executive Director or Sportsmanship Committee for a specified period of time up to one year.
3. In the case of spectators physically assaulting an official, a coach or a participating player, the school may be given two options—either to take legal action against the offenders or to accept discipline from DSSAA.
4. Schools that do not give complete cooperation in promoting the spirit of the Sportsmanship Rule may be disciplined by DSSAA
5. The school whose school administrator or athletic director behaves in a manner likely to have adverse influence on the attitudes of players or spectators may be provided with the choice of:
   a. reprimanding its administrator or athletic director and providing written documentation to the Executive Director, or;
   b. suspending its administrator or athletic director from representing that school in athletic events for a specified period of time up to one year, or;
   c. having the entire school disciplined by DSSAA.
6. A coach, athletic director or school administrator may be considered as committing unsportsmanlike action if:
   a. he makes degrading remarks about officials during or after a game either on the field of play, from the bench, or through any public news media, or;
   b. he argues with the official or goes through motions indicating his dislike for a decision, or;
   c. he detains the official on the field of play following a game to request a ruling or explanation of some phase of the game, or;
   d. he makes degrading or unprofessional remarks about another school's personnel.
7. All decisions by a member school resulting from an investigation in regard to the above policies are subject to approval by the Executive Director and/or the Sportsmanship Committee.

C. **Penalties**

The following represent degrees of discipline in interpreting the Sportsmanship Rule:

1. **Warning:** A warning may be given by the Executive Director or by the Sportsmanship Committee. It is official notice that an inexcusable, unethical or unsportsmanlike action has occurred, is a matter of record and that such an occurrence must not be repeated.
2. **Probation:** Probation is a more severe penalty that may be imposed only by the Sportsmanship Committee on a school or a particular athletic team of a member school. This probation may be expressed in one of the following ways:
   a. Conditional Probation wherein a school on conditional probation may engage in its regular schedule, sanctioned events, and divisional, conference and state championships provided that the school files with DSSAA a program indicating the measures it will take to alleviate the problem which caused it to be placed on probation, or;
   b. Restrictive Probation wherein a school or a school's team on restrictive probation may engage in its regular schedule but may *not*: enter any playoff toward a divisional, conference or state championship; be awarded a divisional, conference, or state championship; or enter any sanctioned events.
3. **Suspension:** A school or a particular team suspended from DSSAA may not meet in interscholastic competition of any kind with any other school.

D. **Appeals**

Decisions of the Sportsmanship Committee may be appealed to the DSSAA Board of Directors pursuant to Sections I, II, and III of the Appeal Procedure found in the current DSSAA Official Handbook. However, Notice of Appeal shall be served by certified mail within 10 calendar days after receipt of written notice of the action of the Sportsmanship Committee or of the Executive Director.

SECTION II
BY LAWS
Senior High School Interscholastic
Athletic Eligibility Rules

DEFINITIONS

Commercial Camp – A commercial sports camp is a camp operated for profit which provides coaching or other sports training for a fee.

Conference – A group of schools of somewhat equal enrollment, playing to achieve a common goal, operating under the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association codes, with no limitations as to the number of schools in the conference, nor any requirement to play all the schools in the conference.

Practice Game – A practice game (or scrimmage) is one at which no legal official is hired, no scores are kept, no public report is made, and the game is purely for practice purposes.

Semesters – The first semester runs from on or about September first to on or about February first. The second semester runs from on or about February first to on or about July first.

RULE 1. ELIGIBILITY

No pupil shall represent a school in any interscholastic contest who does not meet the following requirements:

A. Age

Students who become 19 years of age on or after August 15 shall be eligible for all sports during that current school year provided all other eligibility requirements are met. Students who have attained the age of 19 prior to August 15 shall be ineligible for all sports.

In determining the age of a contestant, the birth date as entered on the birth record of the Bureau of Vital Statistics shall be required, and shall be so certified on all eligibility lists.

B. Attendance and Competition Dates

A student must have been legally enrolled in high school and must have been in regular attendance by September 20.

An athlete may not participate in an athletic contest or practice during the time a suspension is in effect. An athlete must be legally in attendance at school in order to participate in a contest or practice except when excused by proper school authorities or for the following reasons:

1) weather causing impassable road conditions.
2) attendance at a funeral.
3) legal obligations in court or with a lawyer.

Any student who enters school after September 20 shall not be eligible to participate in any interscholastic athletic contest until February 1. A student who enters a school after February 1 shall not be eligible to participate in any interscholastic athletic contest during the remainder of the school year.

Failure to complete a semester, or absence for one or more semesters for reason other than personal illness, shall disqualify a student for ninety (90) school days from the date of re-entry to school.

If a student due to illness or injury drops out of school and is unable to participate in athletics and misses more than half of the scheduled contests of a sports season and must return to school beyond the normal period of eligibility to complete academic requirements for graduation, the student may petition the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association Board of Directors for an extension of athletic eligibility. All other Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association eligibility requirements must be met. The Board of Directors, when ruling in favor of such an extension, will specify the exact period, i.e., semester, season or multiples of same.

An exception is a student who, because of illness, drops out of school or enters late and does not participate in interscholastic athletics any part of that semester. This shall not constitute a semester of the student's eligibility. Documentary proof of the illness in the form of a physician's certificate shall be presented to the Association's Board of Directors.

When any student drops out of school before the close of any semester, that semester shall be considered one of the total number representing the student's eligibility period, provided he/she has been in attendance a total of fifteen days or more.

A student who reaches the age of majority (18), and leaves the parents' place of residency and jurisdiction thereof, and moves to another attendance zone to continue high school education will be ineligible to participate in athletics for ninety (90) school days commencing with the first day of official attendance.

C. Residence

A student must be living with a parent or legal guardian in the attendance zone for the school which he/she attends to be eligible for interscholastic athletics in that school. However, a student who, under authority of a policy of the local board of education, remains in a school he/she has been attending, after his/her legal residence changes to an attendance zone of a different school in the same school district, may exercise a one time election before the start of the new school year to remain at his/her current school and not thereby lose athletic eligibility. (Age of majority (18) refer to rule 1, B. Attendance and Competition Dates, paragraph 8.)

If a student changes residence to a different attendance zone after the start of the last marking period and the student is granted permission to continue attending his/her present school via established district policy for such, the student will maintain his/her athletic eligibility in that school for the remainder of the school year provided that all other eligibility requirements are met.

(NOTE: DSSAA present policy permits seniors to complete their senior year at the school they are attending and be eligible even though a change of legal residence to the attendance zone of another school has occurred.)

D. Transfer

Any student who is released by a proper school authority from a sending school and properly registered and in attendance in a member school and who is pursuing an approved course of study shall be eligible immediately upon registration provided he/she meets all the other eligibility requirements of the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association.

If a student has previously participated in interscholastic athletics, he/she is ineligible for a period of ninety (90) school days commencing with the first day of official attendance in the receiving school, unless the transfer is within a school district and is approved by the district's superintendent pursuant to local school board policy, or is caused by court action, court action being an order from a court of law affecting legally committed students, or by a change in residence of the parents or guardian from the former school attendance zone to the new school attendance zone in which the student is enrolled. (Previous participation is defined as Grades 9-12 except as specified in Rule 4. C. Participation.

A student who transfers from a private, parochial, or vocational technical school to another private, parochial, or vocational technical school will be eligible in the second school immediately when the parent or legal guardian has established a new legal residence change in another public school attendance zone different from the one in which the parent or legal guardian resided for attendance in the first school.

Promotion into the ninth grade from a school whose terminal point is eighth grade, or into tenth grade from a junior high school whose terminal point is the ninth grade shall not constitute a transfer. Students so promoted shall be eligible.

A student from a junior high school or middle school who transfers before or at the beginning of the school year to a high school at the high school's beginning grade level shall become eligible immediately providing he/she meets all other eligibility requirements.

The use of undue influence by anyone to cause a student to transfer for athletic purposes from one school attendance zone to another school attendance zone shall render the student ineligible.

If a waiver of the ninety (90) school days clause is requested, the parents or legal guardians are responsible to provide documentation to the DSSAA to support the request. Documentation should include the following for each specific request:

Curriculum - (1) student schedule card
(2) record of student achievement
(3) current course descriptions from both the sending and receiving school

(4) statement from the principal of the school the student is transferring from indicating that a significant part of the student's curriculum will not be offered and that it would place the student at a definite disadvantage to delay transfer until the end of a current school year.

Finances - Proof of extreme financial hardship caused by significant loss of income and/or increased expenses.

No waiver will be required for students who transfer between the close of the sending school's academic year and August 15 providing:

1. The student's legal residence is part of the attendance zone of the receiving school.
2. All other eligibility requirements are met.

In cases of joint custody, whenever a primary residence is established a change in a student's primary residence without court action subjects the student to the ninety (90) school days ineligibility clause. In cases of joint custody, when residence is shared equally between both parents, a change in a student's school attendance zone without court action subjects the student to the ninety (90) school days ineligibility clause.

A change of custody or guardianship for athletic purposes shall render a student ineligible under the ninety (90) school days ineligibility clause.

If a student transfers after August 15 or at any time during the school year for any reason other than those specified in this handbook, the student must be in attendance, officially, for a period of ninety (90) school days commencing with the first day of official attendance before becoming eligible for interscholastic athletics.

If a student transfers with fewer than ninety (90) school days left in the academic year, such student shall be ineligible during the spring sport season only and shall be eligible to compete beginning with the fall season if all other eligibility requirements are met.

E. Amateur

Must never have played on a professional team.

1. This rule does not apply to a high school athlete who participates in summer baseball or other sports outside of the school's sports season, where the athlete does not receive any form of remuneration for athletic services.

2. The surname and given name used by any player in the first game of interscholastic competition shall be used during the remainder of the student's interscholastic competition. Any change in spelling, or use of another name, shall be regarded as an attempt to evade this rule, unless the change has been properly certified by the player to the principal of the school. In the event a false name is used without the knowledge and consent of the player, or if the player has played in any game without having his/her name appear in the box score, or if his/her name appears in the box score of a game in which he/she did not play, it becomes the sole obligation of the player involved to report the error or omission to the principal of the school within 48 hours from the time such game was played.

3. A player who becomes professional, or who has played on a professonal team, may be reinstated after a period of one year, provided that during the year of suspension, he/she refrains from all professional athletic participation. The year of suspension of the player shall date from the time of the last offense.

F. Professional

An athlete becomes a professional and ceases to be an amateur if he/she:

1. Enters competition for money.
2. Sells or pawns awards received.
3. Accepts a purse of money.
4. Issues a challenge to compete for money or its equivalent.
5. Enters a competition under a false name.

6. Receives a reward for becoming or continuing a member of some athletic organization. (Excluding those rewards permitted by DSSAA.)

7. Teachers, trains or coaches in any athletic sport for money or any valuable consideration. A student does not become a professional by acting as an instructor on a summer playground.

8. Any player knowingly playing on or against a professional or semi-professional team is considered a professional.

This rule does not apply to games played against the alumni or faculty of the school when the game is sponsored by the school authorities.

G. Appeal Procedure

Decisions of the Executive Director may be appealed to the DSSAA Board of Directors.

All member schools may appeal decisions of the DSSAA Board of Directors to the Delaware State Board of Education as per investigative and appeals procedure in appendix.

RULE 2. SIMILAR TEAM

It is the belief that a student owes his/her loyalty and allegiance to the school, coach, and team of which he/she is a member. The following guidelines are established for activity beyond the program of the school:

A. Students are permitted to participate on similar teams under the provisions of Delaware Code, Title 14, §122(b)(18) (House Bill 718 of the 130th General Assembly) which requires written parental permission prior to participation with a similar team. Consent forms are available in all member schools. Written authorization must be on file in the student's school prior to engaging in tryouts, practice, or contests with a similar team.

Tryouts, practice or participation in games on a team similar to the school team of which the student is a member shall be authorized only upon written consent of the parent, custodian or guardian of the student.

Participation on a similar team without compliance to the requirement for prior written consent will result in the student being declared ineligible for the school team. The school would forfeit any contests in which the ineligible student participated.

B. Individuals shall be permitted to receive instruction by a coach, professional, friend or parent.

C. Individual instruction shall be for the purpose of improving the individual's ability.

D. Similar teams shall include organized intramurals and organizational teams as well as outside and independent teams in that sport for the remainder of that season.

RULE 3. PASSING WORK

A. In order to be eligible for participation in interscholastic athletics, including practices, each contestant must pursue a regular course or its equivalent as approved by the Department of Public Instruction, and must be passing at least four credits—two of these credits must be in the academic areas of English, Mathematics, Science, or Social Studies.

B. In the case of any contestant in the twelfth grade, that contestant to be eligible for participation must be passing all courses necessary for graduation from high school.

C. A student whose work in any regular marking period does not meet the above standards shall be ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics, including practices, for the next marking period. In case of a conflict between the mark of a report period or regular final grade, the final mark shall determine eligibility. The final accumulation of credits will determine eligibility for the following school year. When a student makes up a failure during the summer or earns the required credit or credits, he/she shall become eligible.

D. Local school boards may establish requirements over and above these minimums prescribed for eligibility.

E. In respect to the non-public schools that have membership in DSSAA, only the preceding requirements are applicable for student participation. There is nothing in these requirements that shall preclude non-pubic schools from maintaining requirements beyond those herein prescribed.

RULE 4. PARTICIPATION

A. No student shall represent the school in athletics who has been in attendance more than four years from the first date of entrance into the ninth grade.

B. Satisfactory completion of studies in accordance with promotion policies established by the State Board of Education shall determine when a student is beyond the eighth grade.

C. Participation on the part of any eighth grade student toward five years of playing shall be at the discretion of the individual school, except junior high school where junior high school Rule 4 is in effect.

D. Seventh grade students are not permitted to play on varsity senior high school interscholastic teams.

E. In any interscholastic competition an individual player may participate, in the case of basketball, no more than four quarters in any one day, and in the case of football, no player shall participate in more than four quarters a week, including junior varsity and varsity. Any part of a quarter constitutes a quarter. A week is designated as starting on Monday and ending on Sunday for all sports except football. A football week shall begin with the day of the varsity football game and end the day preceding the next varsity game or the following Friday.

RULE 5. POST GRADUATES/HIGHER INSTITUTIONS

Post graduates shall not be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics.

A. Players whose commencement exercises are prior to the completion of the school's regular schedule and/or state tournament contests shall be eligible to compete.

B. All graduates of recognized senior high schools shall be considered post graduates.

C. Any regularly enrolled student taking courses in an institution of higher learning shall be eligible as a member of the school's interscholastic athletic team provided he/she meets all other requirements.

RULE 6. FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS/FOREIGN STUDENTS

A. Notwithstanding Paragraph B., C., and D. of Rule 1, foreign students can be eligible for participation in interscholastic athletics upon arrival at their host school provided that they have not attained the age of 19 prior to August 15 of the current school year, and are enrolled as a participant in a recognized foreign exchange program. All foreign exchange programs listed in the Advisory List of International Educational Travel and Exchange Programs of the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) shall be considered as recognized; students from other programs shall be required to present evidence that their program is a bona fide educational exchange program.

B. Providing that they meet the requirements of Rule 1, other students from a foreign country who are not part of a foreign exchange program can be eligible for participation in interscholastic athletics provided that they have not attained the age of 19 prior to August 15 of the current school year, have not been out of school for more than a year, and have not completed a course of study in the foreign country which is equivalent to graduation from high school.

C. Athletic recruitment of foreign exchange students or other foreign students, by either the school or any other outside entity, is prohibited, and any such students recruited will be ruled ineligible.

D. Once enrolled, all foreign exchange and other foreign students must follow all DSSAA rules of eligibility.

RULE 7. EXAMINATIONS

A. No students shall be eligible to practice for or represent their school in any interscholastic contest unless they have been adequately examined by a qualified physician before beginning each athletic activity for the year.

A certificate to this effect, together with the parent's or guardian's consent, shall be on file with the administrator at the time said administrator certifies to the eligibility of the school's players.

The medical history of the student should be available at the time of the examination.

B. For any subsequent sports season in that school year, a limited reexamination will be performed under the following circumstances:

1. If the athlete has been treated for an injury during the immediately preceding season.
2. If the athlete has been out of school with any illness other than the usual minor upper respiratory or gastrointestinal upset during the preceding term.
3. If any operation has been performed on the athlete during the preceding term.
4. If any student has a remedial defect.

The medical history of the student should be available at the time of each examination.

C. A player properly certified to participate in athletics, but who is physically unable to practice for five consecutive days due to illness or injury, must present to the administrative head a statement from a qualified physician that he/she is again physically fit to participate.

RULE 8. RUNNING OUT OF ELIGIBILITY

If a student's eligibility runs out in interscholastic athletics in one school, the student cannot increase his/her eligibility to compete by transferring to another school.

RULE 9. CLEARING ELIGIBILITY

A. In cases of doubt, the eligibility of a player will be determined initially by the Executive Director. If the Executive Director determines that the student is ineligible, the school and the student will be notified and the student suspended immediately from interscholastic athletic competition.

B. The school and the student will be informed that the decision of the Executive Director may be appealed to the DSSAA Board of Directors. (See Appendix, Appeal Procedure.) A complainant's appeal must follow this procedure.

RULE 10. ELIGIBILITY LISTS

The eligibility list forms approved by the Association shall be used.

A. A complete copy of the eligibility form shall be filed with the Executive Director of the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association before the first game or contest of the season. An eligibility list which is mailed at least three days before the first game or contest shall be deemed to be filed on time. Failure to mail or file an eligibility list as prescribed will result in a $50.00 fine against the school. The Executive Director shall be notified promptly of any changes in eligibility status.

B. Any student whose name does not appear on the school eligibility form or subsequent list on file in the DSSAA Executive Director's office shall be ineligible. In cases where a student meets all eligibility criteria and whose name is omitted from the eligibility form due to administrative and/or clerical error, the student shall be adjudged eligible and the school will be assessed a $25.00 fine.

RULE 11. CONTRACTS INTERCHANGED

A. Contracts on the accepted form for each season's interscholastic athletic program (fall, winter, spring) shall be arranged for by the competing schools.

B. Contracts are to be drawn up by the faculty manager (or other designated staff member) of the home school of the earlier varsity contest.

C. A contract or any part thereof may not be violated unless by mutual agreement of both schools concerned. In case of violation, appeal may be made to the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association Board of Directors who after review of the circumstances may assign an appropriate penalty.

D. A carbon copy of the contract shall be forwarded to the Executive Director of the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association at least two weeks prior to the opening of school or of each sports season.

E. Contracts shall include boys' and girls' sports.

F. Conference master contracts may be used.

RULE 12. SPRING FOOTBALL

No team representing a member school of this Association shall participate in spring football games, nor shall member schools conduct football practice of any type between January 1 and the first official practice day for fall sports. "Organized football" or "organized football practice" shall be considered as any type of sport which is organized to promote efficiency in any of the various aspects of football. Rugby and touch football featuring blocking, tackling, handling of football, signaling, etc. shall be considered "organized football" and is illegal under the intent of this rule.

RULE 13. LICENSED PHYSICIAN

Provision shall be made for a licensed physician, or a NATA certified athletic trainer, or a registered nurse to be present at all interscholastic football games in which a member school participates. The host school shall provide for this service.

The athletic trainer and nurse are limited to rendering first aid service only.

RULE 14. FORFEITS

In case any ineligible player participates in a game, the school represented by the ineligible player shall forfeit the game or games in which the ineligible player participated, and the continued disregard of the athletic eligibility rules by a school shall be considered sufficient grounds for dropping the school from the sports schedule of all member schools for a period of one year. (SEE RULE 10.)

RULE 15. FAILURE TO REPORT VIOLATION

Any school which knowingly participates with a school using an ineligible player shall report this violation to the Association. The Association shall consider failure to make such a report grounds for dropping the school involved from interscholastic athletics for a period of one year from date of violation.

RULE 16. EQUIVALENT RULES

A. No member or associate school shall be permitted to participate with any school unless that school is playing under the rules of this Association or their equivalent.

The word 'equivalent' refers to the equivalent rules of this Association, and is intended to provide that any school in neighboring or adjoining states being a member school or on an approved list or associate school, or with comparable approval of any state, regional, or area recognized athletic body or commission whose primary purpose is the proper regulation and improvement of athletics, shall be deemed as playing under equivalent rules of the Association. Any school outside the jurisdiction of the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association and not on an approved status by a recognized body comparable to the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association, when in competition with a member school or associate school, will cause such school to be in violation of the rules and regulations of such Association.

B. No member school is permitted to play any other Delaware public junior or senior high school which is not a member of the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association.

C. College and junior college competition. Member schools shall not schedule, practice, or play with or against college, university, or junior college undergraduates.

RULE 17. CODES

The Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association is affiliated with the National Federation of State High School Associations. The playing codes, sanctions, and other rules of the National Federation of State High School Associations are adopted.

The playing codes of the National Alliance for Girls' and Women's Sports are adopted.

SANCTIONING – No school shall compete in any interstate meet or contest in which four or more schools participate unless such event has been sanctioned by all interested state associations through the National Federation.

RULE 18. CONFERENCES AND ALL-STAR GAMES

A. Member schools may establish voluntary conference organizations according to the following rules:

1. Any such organization may be composed of public and nonpublic schools.
2. Any conference so formed must submit its proposed membership and bylaws to the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association and these must be approved prior to the entering into of any contractual agreements by member schools.

All subsequent amendments to the constitution and bylaws of any conference must be approved by the Association.

B. Tournament and championship play will be permitted in football, basketball, track, cross country, swimming, wrestling, golf, baseball, soccer, tennis, field hockey, softball, and volleyball provided that such tournament or championship is under the direct control and supervision and/or with the approval of the Athletic Association. All DSSAA tournaments will be managed by committees appointed by the chairman of the Association's Board of Directors. Each tournament format must be approved by the Board of Directors and any subsequent changes in format must also be approved by the Board. The Executive Director will advise the committees as to which change in the format must be presented to the Board. In instances where the Executive Director and the committee cannot agree, the proposed change must be presented to the Board for approval. All financial arrangements for DSSAA tournaments including the collection of monies and expenditures must be approved by the Executive Director. Championship play in other sports must be confined to the individual conference and in accordance with the rules of the conference as approved by the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association. No member school shall participate in any post season game or contest.

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C. Students of member schools, who have used up their eligibility in a sport, may participate in no more than one (1) all-star game in that sport until they have graduated from high school. The game must be approved by DSSAA and a full financial report must be filed with the Executive Director within thirty (30) days of the game.

In addition:

1. The game will not interfere with the academic program of the student or school.
2. The game will not interfere with the interscholastic athletic program of the school.
3. The game will be appropriate to the age level of the youth concerned.
4. The game will not be for determining a regional or national champion.
5. The game is sponsored by and all profits go to a non-profit organization.
6. The awards given will be symbolic in nature with no intrinsic value.
7. The travel distance will not exceed 600 miles round-trip.

RULE 19. CERTIFIED COACHES

A. Only those professional employees certified by the Department of Public Instruction and whose salary is paid by the State and/or local Board of Education, or in the case of nonpublic schools by a similar governing body, if acceptable as a coach by the governing body, shall coach, assist in coaching or direct member school teams in any district. The terms of employment must be for the regular school year and the professional assignment shall be no less than ½ of the school day, exclusive of coaching duties. All head coaches are required to attend the DSSAA rules clinic for their sport or pass an open book rules examination supplied by the DSSAA office.

B. Emergency Coaches: In the event coaches are not available under the above criteria, emergency coaches may be employed provided the following procedures are followed:

1. The employing Board of Education must survey the professional staff to determine if an acceptable staff member is available to fill the coaching vacancy.

2. With no acceptable professional staff member available to fill the coaching vacancy, the local Board of Education must attempt to locate and employ as a coach a person certifiable as a professional educator by the Department of Public Instruction.

3. With no acceptable and certifiable professional educator available, a person acceptable to the local Board of Education may be employed as an emergency coach.

4. Any person employed as a coach under the emergency provision must comply with the following regulations:

   a. Be officially appointed by the local Board of Education.
   b. The coaching salary of the appointed emergency coach must be paid exclusively by the local Board of Education.
   c. The emergency coach must attend the DSSAA annual Rules Clinic for that sport in which the coaching will take place.

5. Documentation that procedures 1 and 2 have been followed and the names of the emergency coaches must be filed annually in the DSSAA office before the emergency coaching duties may be assumed. Such documentation should include:

   a. A copy of any posting advertising the coaching position among the professional staff of the school district.
   b. A copy of any news articles used in the employment process outlined in items 1 and 2.

c. Evidence of the recommendation to the employing Board of Education to officially hire the proposed coach.

C. Students who are doing practice teaching in the various schools are permitted to assist in all professional activities during their practice teaching period.

D. In addition to the members of the school's regular coaching staff, who must come from A, B, or C, above, the local governing board or body may supplement a school's coaching staff through the use of volunteer coaches. These volunteer coaches are individuals who wish to donate their services to a school and who have been approved by that school's local governing body. A current list of volunteer coaches is to be on file in the school's administrative office and the Executive Director's office before any coaching duties are assumed.

RULE 20. SPORTS SEASONS AND PRACTICES

A. The fall sports season shall begin with the first approved day for practice and end with the last regular season scheduled contest or the DSSAA fall tournaments. Any regular season contest that was postponed must be rescheduled and played before the beginning of tournament play for that fall sport.

B. The winter sports season shall begin November 15 and end with the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association winter tournament. Any regular season contest that was postponed must be rescheduled and played before the beginning of tournament play for that winter sport.

C. The spring sports season shall begin March 1 and end with the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association spring tournament. Any regular season contest that was postponed must be rescheduled and played before the beginning of tournament play for that spring sport.

D. Practice for any fall sport shall not begin earlier than 21 days before the first Friday after Labor Day. Practice for any winter sport shall not begin earlier than November 15; practice for any spring sport shall not begin earlier than March 1.

E. Coaches shall not provide athletic instruction for an individual or group of athletes in the school where they coach, out of the designated DSSAA sport season in the sport which they are assigned to coach. By majority vote of the DSSAA Board of Directors present and voting upon petition by a complainant, any coach found to be in violation of this rule shall be suspended from coaching in the specified sport for a period of one calendar year from the date of the vote.

> The first three days of football practice must be non-contact physical conditioning and may include such team activities as chalk talks, viewing films, etc. These three days are for conditioning purposes only and shall not include the physical execution of offensive or defensive plays or techniques. Punt coverage and kick-off coverage may be used as part of the running exercise. Player protective equipment issued shall be limited to helmet, mouth guard, and shoes. Team equipment permitted to be used is footballs, tees, and gymnastic equipment normally used for muscular development. Blocking dummies, charging sleds, or any equipment involving contact may NOT be used.

RULE 21. MAXIMUM GAME SCHEDULES AND DESIGNATED SPORT SEASON

A. The maximum number of regularly scheduled interscholastic contests for each team in the various sports and their designated season shall be as follows:

Designated Fall Season		Maximum	Number Contest
+ *	Cross Country	20	(*) three per week
	Field Hockey	16	(*) three per week
	Football	10	one per week
	Soccer	16	(*) three per week
	Volleyball	16	(*) three per week
Designated Winter Season			
	Basketball	20	(*) three per week (Exclusive of Alumni)
*	Gymnastics	12	(*) three per week
*	Swimming	14	(*) three per week
*	Winter Track/Indoor	12	(*) three per week
	Wrestling	16	(*) three per week
Designated Spring Season			
	Baseball	18	(*) three per week
*	Golf	20	(*) three per week
	Softball	18	(*) three per week
	Tennis	20	(*) three per week
+ *	Track and Field	20	(*) three per week

(*) Providing the third contest is held on the weekend, either Saturday or Sunday. Exception—the requirements that the third contest in a week must be held on a Saturday or Sunday does not apply when the school is not in session for the entire week such as during Christmas or Easter vacation.

+ There cannot be two different track meets on consecutive days.

* Participation in a triangular meet counts as one meet and participation in a double dual meet counts as two meets toward the season limit in that sport.

B. A week is designated as starting on Monday and ending on Sunday for all sports except football. A football week shall begin the day of the varsity football game and end the day preceding the next varsity game or the following Friday.

C. The preceding game limitations in no way prohibit the rescheduling of postponed games at the discretion and convenience of the member schools concerned.

D. The maximum number of regularly scheduled interscholastic contests for each of the various sports, except football, as indicated above, shall be exclusive of conference championship play-offs, playoffs to determine tournament berths and the DSSAA tournament. Any play-offs to determine tournament berths shall be under the control and supervision of the tournament committee. The maximum number of regularly scheduled football contests, as indicated above, shall be exclusive of the DSSAA tournament contest.

RULE 22. PRACTICE PERIOD

In baseball the last twenty minutes practice period before game time shall be reserved for the visiting team.

RULE 23. TRACK AND FIELD LIMITATIONS

A. The standard order of events, as quoted in the National Federation official rule book, shall be followed by member schools in all track and field meets in which they participate, except that the javelin shall not be contested.

B. Limitations of individual entrants: Individual entrants in track and field meets are restricted to any four events.

C. Qualifications for the state meet will be by Divisional meets.

RULE 24. PRACTICE SESSIONS

A. There shall be a minimum of three weeks of practice conducted under the supervision of the schools' coaching staff before the first scheduled contest for all sports.

NOTE: The intent of this regulation is that during this 21 day period, with safety and weather conditions permitting, each school is to conduct regular daily practice without being required to practice on holidays and weekends. Practicing on holidays and weekends shall be left to the discretion of individual schools and conferences.

B. On official school days practice sessions shall be limited to two hours. These practice sessions shall be interpreted as any instructional activity on the fields and courts, or in the classroom, such as normal physical activity, team meetings, film reviews or a combination thereof. All activities shall be at all times under the supervision of a certified coach. The two-hour limit does not include time for necessary noninstructional activities such as dressing, showering, transportation or training room care.

C. A student who attends a commercial sports camp, after the school team begins practice sessions shall be ineligible to participate in that sport for the remainder of that sport season.

RULE 25. AWARDS

A. Not for profit organizations in a community may give appreciation awards by and with the approval of the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association Board of Directors. Such awards must be symbolic in nature and carry no intrinsic value for the recipient.

B. Organizations with commercial connections may present individual or team awards. Individual or team awards are limited to those that do not exceed the amount set by the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association Board of Directors. ($50)

All awards must have symbolic value only. This implies that they must be limited to trophies, medals, ribbons, or awards of similar nature. Sweaters, jackets, watches, or other awards possessing a utilitarian value are prohibited.

All awards must be given with the consent and approval of the administrative head of the school or a designee.

RULE 26. BOXING

All member schools are forbidden to participate in interscholastic boxing.

RULE 27. PROTESTS AND COMPLAINTS

All protests and complaints brought before the Association shall be in writing and shall be acted upon only after the administrative head of the school involved has been given an opportunity to appear before the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association Board of Directors.

RULE 28. WRESTLING – WEIGHT CONTROL CODE

A. Each year four weeks from the first day he appears at practice, every wrestler must establish his minimum class at a weigh-in witnessed by and attested to in writing by the athletic director of the school the wrestler attends. Thereafter he may not compete in a weight class below his duly established weight class. Nor may he compete in any tournament at his established weight class unless he weighs in at his established weight class in at least fifty percent of his matches during the season. A wrestler who is not able to reach the minimum weight of 88 lbs. to wrestle 103 or is not able to get down to the maximum allowable weight of 275 for heavyweight after the first four weeks of practice will be permitted to certify his weight class at any later date in the season and will then be eligible to participate.

B. The current edition of the "National Federation Wrestling Rule Book" shall apply.

C. Before the opening of the season a certified team roster carrying the established minimum weight class of each team member shall be sent to the secretary of the conference to which the school belongs or to the secretary of the independent tournament. Further, duly attested notices of additions to the roster must be sent to the conference secretary without delay. The conference secretary will in turn send to each school in his conference copies of the certified rosters of each school in his conference. Further, he shall note and send notices of additions to certified rosters as these additions occur.

The secretary of each conference shall send to the Chairman of the Wrestling Committee of the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association a copy of the established minimum weights of the conference wrestlers. Also, all non-conference schools shall send a certified team roster with established minimum weights to the above Chairman.

D. Violation of this code on the part of any coach will be considered evidence of bad faith and bad coaching, as will attempt to circumvent its obvious intention: to prevent harmful weight reduction.

RULE 29. USE OF OFFICIALS

A. All member schools of the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association will use officials approved by the Association for interscholastic contests. In case of emergency, such as an act of God, a refusal by a group to work games, shortage of qualified officials, those schools desiring to use other than approved officials must get permission from the Executive Director.

B. All officials are required to attend the DSSAA contest rules clinic and pass the rules examination provided by the DSSAA office for the sports they are officiating. Failure on the part of an official to pass the rules examination and attend the clinic will result in the official being placed on probation until both requirements have been met and loss of eligibility to officiate in DSSAA state tournament contests. Failure to meet this obligation within one year will cause the official to lose varsity officiating status until the requirement is met. If the requirement is not met within two years, the official will lose his/her state certification status. If, for a legitimate reason documented by the president of his/her association, an official is unable to attend the DSSAA contest rules clinic that official may attend a clinic conducted in a National Federation High School member state provided that:

1. No later than the day of the regularly scheduled rules clinic, the official notifies the Executive Director of DSSAA, in writing, of his/her inability to attend the clinic.
2. The clinic is conducted by an individual either trained by the National Federation or designated as a clinician by that state's athletic association.
3. The official must arrange for a letter to be sent to the Executive Director of DSSAA from the state's athletic association office verifying his/her attendance at the clinic.

RULE 30. CRITERIA FOR APPROVING SUMMER CAMP PARTICIPATION – SPONSORSHIP

DSSAA does not restrict an individual's choice to attend a summer camp. However, schools, school organizations, coaches, or school related groups, such as booster clubs, may not sponsor a camp which restricts membership to their own district, locale or teams. Coaches employed by a summer camp may not instruct their student-athletes.

School-related groups, such as booster clubs, wishing to sponsor the attendance of their school's enrolled students at athletic camps, may do so with the approval of the local school-governing body (i.e., school board). The disbursement of funds to pay for camp-related expenses (fees, travel costs, etc.) must be administered by the principal or the principal's designee and allocated according to the following:

(a) All students and all team members must be notified of the available sponsorship by announcement, publication, etc.;

(b) All applicants will share equally in the funds provided;

(c) All applicants must be academically eligible for participation in interscholastic athletics;

(d) All applicants shall have had 1 year prior participation in that sport for which the camp is intended or, absent any prior participation in the sport, he/she is to be judged by the coach to benefit substantially from participation in the camp.

(e) All applicants and their parents must sign a written statement indicating that they understand that the camp is not managed, run or operated under the supervision or authority of the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association and that the camp has neither the approval nor disapproval of DSSAA.

RULE 31. SANCTIONS – SCHOOL TEAMS AND INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION

A. Teams – in the DSSAA designated sport season, schools may obtain sanction* to participate in school sponsored competition only. In any interstate tournament or meet in which four or more schools participate, sanctions must be obtained from the state associations involved and by the National Federation of State High School Associations. The following criteria for sanctioning will apply:

1. The competition will not interfere with the academic program of the student or school.
2. The competition will not interfere with the interscholastic athletic program of the school.
3. The competition will be appropriate to the age level of the youth concerned.
4. The competition will not be for determining a regional or national champion.
5. The competition is sponsored by a non-profit organization.
6. The awards given will be symbolic in nature with no intrinsic value.
7. The travel distance will not exceed 600 miles round-trip.

* School Sanction Forms may be obtained from the DSSAA office. These forms must be submitted to the DSSAA office in sufficient time to be forwarded to the National Federation of State High School Associations office so that the form will be on file 30 days prior to the contest.

B. Individual – In the individual sports of Golf, Swimming, Tennis, Track, Gymnastics, Cross Country and Wrestling an individual** may participate in four non-school sponsored events provided the administrative head of the school grants approval in accordance with the following criteria:

1. The competition will not interfere with the academic program of the student or school.
2. The competition will not interfere with the interscholastic athletic program of the school.
3. The competition will be appropriate to the age level of the youth concerned.
4. The competition will not be for determining a regional or national champion.
5. The competition is sponsored by a non-profit organization.
6. The awards given will be symbolic in nature with no intrinsic value.
7. The school district may not provide equipment, transportation, sponsorship or any form of financial assistance for any school athlete who receives a sanction to participate as an individual in a non-school sponsored athletic contest during that school sport season.

**Individual Sanction Forms may be obtained from the high school office. One copy of this form signed by the administrative head of the school must be on file in the DSSAA office prior to the date of the contest.

NOTE: Under provisions of DSSAA Rule 2 Similar Team, these athletes may also participate as members of non-school teams.

Additional information concerning sanctions is listed in the back of this handbook under titles "For Your Information – National Federation of State High School Associations Provisions Governing Interstate Contests" and "Sanctioned Meets."

SECTION III
BYLAWS
Junior High/Middle School Interscholastic Athletic Eligibility Rules

DEFINITIONS

Junior High School – A junior high school for the purpose of clarification for interscholastic competition shall be any school with any combinations of grades seven and eight, and up to and including grade nine; and shall hereafter be referred to in the bylaws as a junior high school, or middle school.

Commercial Camp – A commercial sports camp is a camp operated for profit which provides coaching or other sports training for a fee.

Conference – A group of schools of somewhat equal enrollment, playing to achieve a common goal, operating under the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association codes, with no limitations as to the number of schools in the conference, nor any requirement to play all the schools in the conference.

Practice Game – A practice game (or scrimmage) is one at which no legal official is hired, no scores are kept, no public report is made, and the game is purely for practice purposes.

Professional Team — A professional team is one having one or more members who received, or are receiving directly or indirectly, monetary consideration for their athletic services.

Semesters — The first semester runs from on or about September first to on or about February first. The second semester runs from on or about February first to on or about July first.

RULE 1. ELIGIBILITY

No student shall represent a school in any interscholastic contest who does not meet the following requirements:

A. Age

Ninth grade students who become sixteen years of age on or after August 15 in a school terminating in the ninth grade and eighth grade students who become fifteen years of age on or after August 15 in a school terminating in the eighth grade shall be eligible for all sports during that current school year providing all other eligibility requirements are met.

In determining the age of a contestant, the birth date as entered on the birth record of the Bureau of Vital Statistics shall be required, and shall be so certified on all eligibility lists.

Permission will be granted to sixteen-year-old, ninth grade students who are ineligible for junior high school competition and who meet all other eligibility requirements to participate in the district high school athletic program. Permission will be granted to fifteen-year-old eighth grade students who are ineligible for junior high school competition in a school terminating in the eighth grade and who meet all other eligibility requirements to participate in the district high school athletic program.

B. Attendance and Competition Dates

A student must have been legally enrolled in junior high school and must have been in regular attendance by September 20. An athlete may not participate in an athletic contest or practice during the time a suspension is in effect. An athlete must be legally in attendance at school in order to participate in a contest or practice except when excused by proper school authorities or for the following reasons:

1) weather causing impassable road conditions.
2) attendance at a funeral.
3) legal obligations in court or with a lawyer.

Any student who enters school after September 20 shall not be eligible to participate in any interscholastic contest until February 1. A student who enters school after February 1 shall not be eligible to participate in any interscholastic contest during the remainder of the school year.

Failure to complete a semester or absence for one or more semesters for reason other than personal illness, shall disqualify a student for ninety (90) school days from the date of reentry to school.

If a student due to illness or injury drops out of school and is unable to participate in athletics and misses more than half of the scheduled contests of a sports season and must return to school beyond the normal period of eligibility to complete academic requirements for graduation, the student may petition the Delaware

Secondary School Athletic Association Board of Directors for an extension of athletic eligibility. All other Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association eligibility requirements must be met. The Board of Directors, when ruling in favor of such an extension, will specify the exact period, i.e. semester, season or multiples of same.

An exception is a student who, because of illness, drops out of school or enters late and does not participate in interscholastic athletics any part of that semester. This shall not constitute a semester of the student's eligiblity. Documentary proof of the illness in the form of a physician's certificate shall be presented to the Association's Board of Directors.

When any student drops out of school before the close of any semester, that semester shall be considered one of the total number representing the student's eligibility period, provided he/she had been in attendance a total of fifteen days or more.

C. Residence

A student must be living with a parent or legal guardian in the attendance zone for the school which he/she attends to be eligible for interscholastic athletics in that school. (Age of majority (18) refer to Rule 1, B. Attendance and Competition Dates, paragraph 8.)

If a student changes residence to a different attendance zone after the start of the last marking period and the student is granted permission to continue attending his/her present school via established district policy for such, the student will maintain his/her athletic eligibility in that school for the remainder of the school year provided that all other eligibility requirements are met.

(NOTE: DSSAA present policy permits seniors to complete their senior year at the school they are attending and be eligible even though a change of legal residence to the attendance zone of another school has occurred.)

D. Transfer

Any student who is released by a proper school authority from a sending school and properly registered and in attendance in a member school and who is pursuing an approved course of study shall be eligible immediately upon registration provided he/she meets all the other eligibility requirements of the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association.

If the student has previously participated in interscholastic athletics, he/she is ineligible for a period of 90 days from the first date of attendance in the receiving school unless the transfer is caused by court action, court action being an order from a court of law affecting committed students, or by a change in residence of the parents or guardian from the former school district to the new school district in which the student is enrolled.

Promotion into the ninth grade from a school whose terminal point is eighth grade, or into tenth grade from a junior high school whose terminal point is the ninth grade shall not constitute a transfer. Students so promoted shall be eligible.

A student from a junior high school or middle school who transfers before or at the beginning of the school year to a high school at the high school's beginning grade level shall become eligible immediately providing he/she meets all other eligibility requirements.

The use of undue influence by anyone to cause a student to transfer for athletic purposes from one school district to another, or from one school to another within a school district, shall render the student ineligible.

If a waiver of the 90 days ineligibility clause is requested, the parents or legal guardians are responsible to provide documentation to the DSSAA to support the request. Documentation should include the following for each specific request:

Curriculum - (1) student schedule card
(2) record of student achievement
(3) current course descriptions from both the sending and receiving school
(4) statement from the principal of the school the student is transferring from indicating that a significant part of the student's curriculum will not be offered.

Finances — Proof of extreme financial hardship caused by significant loss of income and/or increased expenses.

No waiver will be required for students who transfer between the close of the sending school's academic year and August 15 providing all other eligibility requirements are met. (The 90 days ineligibility clause of the DSSAA Transfer Rule does not apply during this period of time.)

E. Amateur

Must never have played on a professional team.

1. This rule does not apply to a high school athlete who participates in summer baseball or other sports outside of the school's sports season, where the athlete does not receive any form of remuneration for athletic services.

2. The surname and given name used by any player in the first game of interscholastic competition shall be used during the remainder of the student's interscholastic competition. Any change in spelling, or use of another name, shall be regarded as an attempt to evade this rule, unless the change has been properly certified by the player to the principal of the school. In the event a false name is used without the knowledge and consent of the player, or if the player has played in any game without having his/her name appear in the box score, or if his/her name appears in the box score of a game in which he/she did not play, it becomes the sole obligation of the player involved to report the error or ommission to the principal of the school within 48 hours from the time such game was played.

3. A player who becomes professional, or who has played on a professional team, may be reinstated after a period of one year, provided that during the year of suspension, he/she refrains from all professional athletic participation. The year of suspension of the player shall date from the time of the last offense.

F. Professional

An athlete becomes a professional and ceases to be an amateur if he/she:

1. Enters competition for money.
2. Sells or pawns awards received.
3. Accepts a purse of money.
4. Issues a challenge to compete for money or its equivalent.
5. Enters a competition under a false name.
6. Receives a reward for becoming or continuing a member of some athletic organization. (Excluding those rewards permitted by DSSAA.)
7. Teaches, trains, or coaches in any athletic sport for money or any valuable consideration. A student does not become a professional by acting as an instructor on a summer playground.

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8. Any player knowingly playing on or against a professional or semiprofessional team is considered a professional.

This rule does not apply to games played against the alumni or faculty of the school when the game is sponsored by the school authorities.

G. Appeal Procedure

Decisions of the Standing Committee and the Executive Director may be appealed to the DSSAA Board of Directors. All member schools may appeal decisions of the DSSAA Board of Directors to the Delaware State Board of Education as per investigative and appeals procedure in appendix.

RULE 2. SIMILAR TEAM

It is the belief that a student owes his/her loyalty and allegiance to the school, coach, and team of which he/she is a member. The following guidelines are established for activity beyond the program of the school:

A. Students are permitted to participate on similar teams under the provisions of Delaware Code, Title 14, §122(b)(18) (House Bill 718 of the 130th General Assembly) which requires written parental permission prior to participation with a similar team. Consent forms are available in all member schools. Written authorization must be on file in the student's school prior to engaging in tryouts, practice, or contests with a similar team.

Tryouts, practice or participation in games on a team similar to the school team of which the student is a member shall be authorized only upon written consent of the parent, custodian or guardian of the student.

Participation on a similar team without compliance to the requirement for prior written consent will result in the student being declared ineligible for the school team. The school would forfeit any contests in which the ineligible student participated.

B. Individuals shall be permitted to receive instruction by a coach, professional, friend or parent.

C. Individual instruction shall be for the purpose of improving the individual's ability.

D. Similar teams shall include organized intramurals and organizational teams as well as outside and independent teams in that sport for the remainder of that season.

RULE 3. PASSING WORK

A. In order to be eligible for participation in interscholastic athletics, including practices, each contestant must pursue a regular course or its equivalent as approved by the Department of Public Instruction, and must be passing at least four credits - two of these credits must be in the academic areas of English, Mathematics, Science, or Social Studies.

B. A student whose work in any regular marking period does not meet the above standards shall be ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics, including practices, for the next marking period. In cases of conflict between a report period grade and final grade, the final grade shall determine eligibility for the first marking period of the following year. The final accumulation of credits will determine eligibility for the following school year. When a student makes up a failure during the summer or earns the required credit or credits, he/she shall become eligible.

RULE 4. PARTICIPATION

A. No student shall represent the school in athletics who has been in attendance more than eight semesters from the first date of entrance into the seventh grade in schools 7-8-9, inclusive. No student shall represent his school in athletics who has been in attendance more than six semesters from the first date of entrance into the seventh grade in schools 7-8, inclusive.

B. Seventh grade students are not permitted to play on varsity senior school interscholastic teams. Students below the seventh grade are not eligible to play or practice on Junior High/Middle School interscholastic teams.

C. In any interscholastic competition an individual player may participate, in the case of basketball, no more than four quarters in any one day, and in the case of football, no player shall participate in more than four quarters a week, including junior varsity and varsity. Any part of a quarter constitutes a quarter. A week shall begin with the day of the varsity football game and end the day preceding the next varsity game or the following Friday.

RULE 5. GRADES

The junior high school shall be grades seven to nine, inclusive.

RULE 6. JUNIOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION

A. No junior high school student who has completed a season on a junior high school team shall compete in the same sport at the senior high school level in the same school year.

B. Any junior high school student who participates on a varsity or junior varsity team at the high school level shall be ineligible for participation at the junior high school level in the same sport.

C. In those school districts where a sport is not sponsored for ninth grade students in a junior high school which has a separate administrative head from that of the high school, the school district may permit ninth grade students to participate in the program of the high school in the student attendance zone providing the student meets all other eligibility requirements.

RULE 7. EXAMINATIONS

A. No students shall be eligible to practice for or represent their school in any interscholastic athletic contest unless they have been adequately examined by a qualified physician before beginning such athletic activity for the year.

A certificate to this effect, together with the parent's or guardian's consent, shall be on file with the administrator at the time said administrator certified to the eligibility of the school's players.

The medical history of the student should be available at the time of the examination.

B. For any subsequent sports season in that school year, a limited reexamination will be performed under the following circumstances:

1. If the athlete has been treated for an injury during the immediately preceding season.

2. If the athlete has been out of school with any illness other than the usual minor upper respiratory or gastrointestinal upset during the preceding term.

3. If any operation has been performed on the athlete during the preceding term.

4. If any student has a remedial defect.

The medical history of the student should be available at the time of each examination.

C. A player properly certified to participate in athletics, but who is physically unable to practice for five consecutive days due to illness or injury, must present to the administrative head of the school a statement from a qualified physician that he/she is again physically fit to participate.

RULE 8. RUNNING OUT OF ELIGIBILITY

If a student's eligibility runs out in interscholastic athletics in one school, the student cannot increase his/her eligibility by transferring to another school.

RULE 9. CLEARING ELIGIBILITY

A. In cases of doubt, the eligibility of a player will be determined initially by the Executive Director. If the Executive Director determines that the student is ineligible, the school and the student will be notified and the student suspended immediately from interscholastic athletic competition.

B. The school and the student will be informed that the decision of the Executive Director may be appealed to the DSSAA Board of Directors. (See Appendix, Appeal Procedure.) A complainant's appeal must follow this procedure.

RULE 10. ELIGIBILITY LISTS

The eligibility list forms approved by the Association shall be used.

A. A complete copy of the eligibility form shall be filed with the Executive Director of the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association before the first game or contest of the season. An eligibility list which is mailed at least three days before the first game or contest shall be deemed to be filed on time. Failure to mail or file an eligibility list as prescribed will result in a $50.00 fine against the school. The Executive Director shall be notified promptly of any changes in eligibility status.

B. Any student whose name does not appear on the school eligibility form or subsequent list on file in the DSSAA Executive Director's office shall be ineligible. In cases where a student meets all eligibility criteria and whose name is omitted from the eligibility form due to administrative and/or clerical error, the student shall be adjudged eligible and the school assessed a $25.00 fine.

RULE 11. CONTRACTS INTERCHANGED

A. Contracts on the accepted form for each season's interscholastic athletic program (fall, winter, spring) shall be arranged for by the competing schools.

B. Contracts are to be drawn up by the faculty manager (or other designated staff member) of the home school of the earlier varsity contest.

C. A contract or any part thereof may not be violated unless by mutual agreement of both schools concerned. In case of violation appeal may be made to the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association Board of Directors who after review of the circumstances may assign an appropriate penalty.

D. A carbon copy of the contract shall be forwarded to the Executive Director of the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association at least two weeks prior to the opening of school or of each sports season.

E. Contracts shall include boys' and girls' sports.

RULE 12. SPRING FOOTBALL

No team representing a member school of this Association shall participate in spring football games, nor shall member schools conduct football practice of any type between January 1 and August 24. "Organized football" or "organized football practice" shall be considered as any type of sport which is organized to promote efficiency in any of the various aspects of football. Rugby and touch football featuring blocking, tackling, handling of football, signaling, etc. shall be considered "organized football" and is illegal under the intent of the rule.

RULE 13. LICENSED PHYSICIAN

Provision shall be made for a licensed physician, or a NATA certified athletic trainer, or a registered nurse to be present at all interscholastic football games in which a member school participates. The host school shall provide for this service.

The athletic trainer and nurse are limited to rendering first aid service only.

RULE 14. FORFEITS

In case any ineligible player participates in a game, the school represented by the ineligible player shall forfeit the game or games in which the ineligible player participated, and the continued disregard of the athletic eligibility rules by a school shall be considered sufficient grounds for dropping the school from the sports schedule of all member schools for a period of one year. (See Rule 10).

RULE 15. FAILURE TO REPORT VIOLATION

Any school which knowingly participates with a school using an ineligible player shall report this violation to the Association. The Association shall consider failure to make such a report grounds for dropping the school involved from interscholastic athletics for a period of one year from date of violation.

RULE 16. EQUIVALENT RULES

A. No member or associate school shall be permitted to participate with any school unless that school is playing under the rules of this Association or their equivalent.

The word 'equivalent' refers to the equivalent rules of this Association, and is intended to provide that any school in neighboring or adjoining states being a member school or on an approved list or associate school, or with comparable approval of any state, regional, or area recognized athletic body or commission whose primary purpose is the proper regulation and improvement of athletics, shall be deemed as playing under equivalent rules of the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association. Any school outside the jurisdiction of the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association, and not on an approved status by a recognized body comparable to the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association, when in competition with a member school or associate school, will cause such school to be in violation of the rules and regulations of the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association.

B. No member school is permitted to play any other Delaware public junior or senior high school which is not a member of the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association.

C. College and junior college competition. Member schools shall not schedule, practice, or play with or against college, university, or junior college undergraduates.

RULE 17. CODES

The Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association is affiliated with the National Federation of State High School Associations. The playing codes, sanctioning and other rules of the National Federation of State High School Associations are adopted.

The playing codes of the National Association for Girls' and Women's Sports are adopted.

SANCTIONING – No school shall compete in any interstate meet or contest in which four or more schools participate unless such event has been sanctioned by all interested state associations through the National Federation.

RULE 18. CONFERENCES AND ALL-STAR GAMES

A. Member schools may establish voluntary conference organizations according to the following rules:

1. Any such organization may be composed of public and nonpublic schools.

2. Any conference so formed must submit its proposed membership and bylaws to the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association and these must be approved prior to the entering into of any contractual agreements by member schools.

All subsequent amendments to the constitution and bylaws of any conference must be approved by the Association.

B. Tournament and championship play may be permitted in basketball, golf, swimming, tennis, track and wrestling provided that such tournament or championship is under the direct control and supervision and/or with the approval of the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association. All financial arrangements for DSSAA tournaments including the collection of monies and expenditures must be approved by the Executive Director. Championship play in other sports must be confined to the individual conference and in accordance with the rules of the conference as approved by the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association. No member school shall participate in any post season game or contest.

C. Students of member schools shall not participate in all-star events until they have graduated from high school.

RULE 19. CERTIFIED COACHES

A. Only those professional employees certified by the Department of Public Instruction and whose salary is paid by the State and/or local Board of Education, or in the case of private schools by a similar governing body, if acceptable as a coach by the governing body, shall coach, assist in coaching or direct member school teams in any district. The terms of employment must be for the regular school year

and the professional assignment shall be no less than ½ of the school day, exclusive of coaching duties. All head coaches are required to attend the DSSAA rules clinic for their sport or pass an open book rules examination supplied by the DSSAA office.

B. Emergency Coaches: In the event coaches are not available under the above criteria, emergency coaches may be employed provided the following procedures are followed:

1. The employing Board of Education must survey the professional staff to determine if an acceptable staff member is available to fill the coaching vacancy.

2. With no acceptable professional staff member available to fill the coaching vacancy, the local Board of Education must attempt to locate and employ as a coach a person certifiable as a professional educator by the Department of Public Instruction.

3. With no acceptable and certifiable professional educator available, a person acceptable to the local Board of Education may be employed as an emergency coach.

4. Any person employed as a coach under the emergency provision must comply with the following regulations:

a. Be officially appointed by the local Board of Education.

b. The coaching salary of the appointed emergency coach must be paid exclusively by the local Board of Education.

c. The emergency coach must attend the DSSAA annual Rules Clinic for that sport in which the coaching will take place.

5. Documentation that procedures 1 and 2 have been followed and the names of emergency coaches must be filed annually in the DSSAA office before the emergency coaching duties may be assumed. Such documentation should include:

a. A copy of any posting advertising the coaching position among the professional staff of the school district.

b. A copy of any news articles used in the employment process outlined in items 1 and 2.

c. Evidence of the recommendation to the employing Board of Education to officially hire the proposed coach.

C. Students who are doing practice teaching in the various schools are permitted to assist in all professional activities during their practice teaching period.

D. In addition to the members of the school's regular coaching staff, who must come from A, B, or C, above, the local governing board or body may supplement a school's coaching staff through the use of volunteer coaches. These volunteer coaches are individuals who wish to donate their services to a school and who have been approved by that school's local governing body. A current list of volunteer coaches is to be on file in the school's administrative office and the Executive Director's office before any coaching duties are assumed.

RULE 20. SPORT SEASONS AND PRACTICES

A. The fall sports season shall begin with the first scheduled game and end not later than December 1.

B. The winter sports season shall begin November 15 and end not later than March 1.

C. The spring sports season shall begin March 1 and end with the last game, but no later than the last school day.

D. Practice for any fall sport shall not begin earlier than August 25; practice for any winter sport shall not begin earlier than November 15; practice for any spring sport shall not begin earlier than March 1.

E. Coaches shall not coach athletes or students enrolled in the school where they coach, out of the designated DSSAA sports season, in the sport that they are assigned to coach. Coaching shall be defined as assisting a student by demonstration or advice on skills or techniques specifically to the assigned sport with the exception of normally scheduled physical education classes. By majority vote of the DSSAA Board of Directors present and voting upon petition by a complainant, any coach found to be in violation of this rule shall be suspended from coaching in the specified sport for a period of one calendar year from the date of the vote.

RULE 21. MAXIMUM GAME SCHEDULES AND DESIGNATED SPORT SEASON

A. The maximum number of regularly scheduled interscholastic contests for each team in the various sports and their designated season shall be as follows:

Designated Fall Season	*Maximum*	*Number Contest*
Cross Country	12	two per week
Field Hockey	12	two per week
Football	8	one per week
Soccer	12	two per week
Volleyball	12	two per week
Designated Winter Season		
Basketball	14	two per week
*Gymnastics	8	one per week
*Swimming	10	one per week
Wrestling	10	two per week
Designated Spring Season		
Baseball	12	two per week
Softball	12	two per week
Tennis	12	two per week
*Track and Field	10	two per week

* Participation in a triangular meet counts as one meet and participation in a double dual meet counts as two meets towards the season limits in that sport.

B. The preceding game limitations in no way prohibits the rescheduling of postponed games at the discretion and convenience of the member schools concerned.

RULE 22. PRACTICE PERIOD

In baseball the last twenty minutes practice period before game time shall be reserved for the visiting team.

RULE 23. TRACK AND FIELD LIMITATIONS

A. The order of events, as quoted in the National Federation official rule book shall be followed by member schools in all track and field meets in which they participate. It is recommended that the field events begin thirty minutes before the first running event.

B. Limitations of individual entrants: Individual entrants in track and field meets are restricted to any three events.

RULE 24. PRACTICE SESSIONS

A. There shall be a minimum of three weeks of practice conducted under the supervision of the school's coaching staff before the first scheduled contest for all sports.

NOTE: The intent of this regulation is that during this 21 day period, with safety and weather conditions permitting, each school is to conduct regular daily practice without being required to practice on holidays and weekends. Practicing on holidays and weekends shall be left to the discretion of individual schools and conferences.

B. On official school days practice sessions shall be limited to two hours. These practice sessions shall be interpreted as any instructional activity on the fields and courts, or in the classroom such as normal physical activity, team meetings, film reviews or a combination thereof. All activities shall be at all times under the supervision of a certificated coach. The two-hour limit does not include time for necessary noninstructional activities such as dressing, showering, transportation or training room care.

C. A student who attends a commercial sports camp after the school team begins practice sessions shall be ineligible to participate in that sport for the remainder of that sport season.

RULE 25. AWARDS

A. Not for profit organizations in a community may give appreciation awards by and with the approval of the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association Board of Directors. Such awards must be symbolic in nature and carry no intrinsic value for the recipient.

B. Organizations with commercial connections may present individual or team awards. Individual or team awards are limited to those that do not exceed the amount set by the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association Board of Directors. ($50)

All awards must have symbolic value only. This implies that they must be limited to trophies, medals, ribbons, or awards of similar nature. Sweaters, jackets, watches, or other awards possessing a utilitarian value are prohibited.

All awards must be given with the consent and approval of the administrative head of the school or designee.

RULE 26. BOXING

All members schools are forbidden to participate in interscholastic boxing.

RULE 27. PROTESTS AND COMPLAINTS

All protests and complaints brought before the Association shall be in writing and shall be acted upon only after the administrative head of the school involved has been given an opportunity to appear before the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association Board of Directors.

RULE 28. WRESTLING – WEIGHT CONTROL CODE

A. Each year four weeks from the first day he appears at practice, every wrestler must establish his minimum weight class at a weigh-in witnessed by and attested to in writing by the athletic director of the school the wrestler attends. Thereafter he may not compete in a weight class below his duly established weight class. Nor may he compete in any tournament at his established weight class unless he weighs in at his established weight class in at least fifty percent of his matches during the season.

Weight classification shall be as follows:

76 lbs.	100 lbs.	124 lbs.	148 lbs.
82 lbs.	106 lbs.	130 lbs.	155 lbs.
88 lbs.	112 lbs.	136 lbs.	165 lbs.
94 lbs.	118 lbs.	142 lbs.	250 lbs.

B. With the exception of the above weight classification, the current edition of the "National Federation Wrestling Rule Book" shall apply.

C. Before the opening of the season, a certified team roster carrying the established minimum weight class of each team member shall be sent to the Executive Director of the DSSAA. Further, duly attested notices of additions to the roster must be sent to the director without delay. Scratch weight for junior high and middle school wrestlers must be made during the first month of practice. Each succeeding month, a wrestler will be given a one-pound growth allowance.

D. Schools desiring to run their wrestling program at a time other than the season specified in Rule 20 must apply for permission through the office of the Executive Director of DSSAA. A team which begins its season in October gets a pound in November and another pound in December. A team which begins its season in November gets a pound in December, an additional pound in January, and another pound in February.

E. Violation of this code on the part of any coach will be considered evidence of bad faith and bad coaching, as will attempts to circumvent its obvious intention: to prevent harmful weight reduction.

RULE 29. USE OF OFFICIALS

A. All member schools of the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association will use officials approved by the Association for interscholastic contests. In cases of emergency, such as an act of God, a refusal by a group to work games, shortage of qualified officials, those schools desiring to use other than approved officials must get permission from the Executive Director.

B. All officials are required to attend the DSSAA contest rules clinic and pass the rules examination provided by the DSSAA office for the sports they are officiating. Failure on the part of an official to pass the rules examination and attend the clinic will result in the official being placed on probation until both requirements have been met and loss of eligibility to officiate in DSSAA state tournament contests. Failure to meet this obligation within one year will cause the official to lose varsity officiating status until the requirement is met. If the requirement is not met within two years, the official will lose his/her state certification status. If, for a legitimate reason documented by the president of his/her association, an official is unable to attend the DSSAA contest rules clinic that official may attend a clinic conducted in a National High School Federation member state provided that:

1. No later than the day of the regularly scheduled rules clinic, the official notifies the Executive Director of DSSAA, in writing, of his/her inability to attend the clinic.

2. The clinic is conducted by an individual either trained by the National Federation or designated as a clinician by that state's athletic association.
3. The official must arrange for a letter to be sent to the Executive Director of DSSAA from the state's athletic association office verifying his/her attendance at the clinic.

RULE 30. CRITERIA FOR APPROVING SUMMER CAMP PARTICIPATION – SPONSORSHIP

DSSAA does not restrict an individual's choice to attend a summer camp. However, schools, school organizations, coaches, or school related groups, such as booster clubs, may not sponsor a camp which restricts membership to their own district, locale or teams. Coaches employed by a summer camp may not instruct their student-athletes.

School-related groups, such as booster clubs, wishing to sponsor the attendance of their school's enrolled students at athletic camps, may do so with the approval of the local school-governing body (i.e., school board). The disbursement of funds to pay for camp-related expenses (fees, travel costs, etc.) must be administered by the principal or the principal's designee and allocated according to the following:

(a) All students or all team members must be notified of the available sponsorship by announcement, publication, etc.;

(b) All applicants will share equally in the funds provided;

(c) All applicants must be academically eligible for participation in interscholastic athletics;

(d) All applicants shall have had 1 year prior participation in that sport for which the camp is intended or, absent any prior participation in the sport, he/she is to be judged by the coach to benefit substantially from participation in the camp.

(e) All applicants and their parents must sign a written statement indicating that they understand that the camp is not managed, run or operated under the supervision or authority of the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association and that the camp has neither the approval nor disapproval of DSSAA.

RULE 31. SANCTIONS – SCHOOL TEAMS AND INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION

A. Teams – In the DSSAA designated sport season, schools may obtain sanction* to participate in school sponsored competition only. In any interstate tournament or meet in which four or more schools participate, sanctions must be obtained from the state associations involved and by the National Federation of State High School Associations. The following criteria for sanctioning will apply:

1. The competition will not interfere with the academic program of the student or school.
2. The competition will not interfere with the interscholastic athletic program of the school.
3. The competition will be appropriate to the age level of the youth concerned.
4. The competition will not be for determining a regional or national champion.
5. The competition is sponsored by a non-profit organization.
6. The awards given will be symbolic in nature with no intrinsic value.
7. The travel distance will not exceed 600 miles round-trip.

* School Sanction Forms may be obtained from the DSSAA office. These forms must be submitted to the DSSAA office in sufficient time to be forwarded to the National Federation of State High School Associations office so that the form will be on file 30 days prior to the contest.

B. Individual – In the individual sports of Golf, Swimming, Tennis, Track, Gymnastics, Cross Country, and Wrestling an individual** may participate in four non-school sponsored events provided the administrative head of the school grants approval in accordance with the following criteria:

1. The competition will not interfere with the academic program of the student or school.
2. The competition will not interfere with the interscholastic athletic program of the school.
3. The competition will be appropriate to the age level of the youth concerned.
4. The competition will not be for determining a regional or national champion.
5. The competition is sponsored by a non-profit organization.
6. The awards given will be symbolic in nature with no intrinsic value.
7. The school district may not provide equipment, transportation, sponsorship or any form of financial assistance for any school athlete who receives a sanction to participate as an individual in a non-school sponsored athletic contest during that school sport season.

NOTE: Under provisions of DSSAA Rule 2, Similar Team, these athletes may also participate as members of non-school teams.

** Individual Sanction Forms may be obtained from the high school office. One copy of this form signed by the administrative head of the school must be on file in the DSSAA office prior to the date of the contest.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION – NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS PROVISIONS GOVERNING INTERSTATE CONTESTS

In all interstate contests each contesting school shall follow the rules of its home state athletic association or rules which are more restrictive and which have been sanctioned by the home state association for interstate contests.

No school which is a member of a Federation member state high school association shall compete in any of the following contests unless such contest has been sanctioned by each of the interested state associations through the National Federation: (a) any interstate tournament or meet in which four or more schools participate; (b) any interstate two-school contest which involves a round trip exceeding 600 miles; (c) any interstate two-school contest (regardless of the distance to be travelled) which is sponsored by an individual or an organization other than a member high school.

No sanction shall be granted for any meet, tournament or other athletic contest for determining a national high school championship; nor for any basketball tournament which involves high schools from more than one state unless the tournament is for an area which is a natural community in which adjacent cities or suburbs are divided by a state line, or a panhandle area, or an area which because of mountain barriers or sparse population is isolated so that the tournament competition across state lines is essential to the filing of an adequate schedule.

NOTE: This section shall not apply to established conference tournaments which were inaugurated and sanctioned prior to 1952.

No school which is a member of a Federation member state high school association shall compete in any contest in any other state if the contest involves conditions such that participation by a school in which the contest is held or promoted would violate the regulations or established policies of that state high school association.

SANCTIONED MEETS

All member schools who sponsor meets involving out-of-state schools must have meets sanctioned by the National Federation of State High School Associations thirty days before date of meet. Sanction request forms are available and may be secured from the Executive Director's office in Dover. Any questions pertaining to the status of previously sanctioned events should be directed to the Executive Director.

APPENDIX

WAIVER PROCEDURE

Any request for a waiver must be channeled to the principal or headmaster and a copy to the chief school officer. Forms and notification for waivers are on file at the local school office.

INVESTIGATIVE PROCEDURE

The following investigative procedure will be followed when the DSSAA office receives information indicating that an incident has occurred which is not in the best interest of the interscholastic athletic program of the DSSAA member schools.

1. The administrative head of the member school or schools will be notified by telephone and confirmed by letter of the pending investigation. (Copy to be sent to the District Superintendent.) The notification will contain an explanation of the nature of the investigation and identify the person or persons conducting the investigation.
2. Permission will be obtained from the administrative head or the person in charge of the member school to interview students and/or staff members.
3. Each person interviewed will be informed of the nature of the investigation.
4. Upon completion of the investigation, a written statement of charges will be presented to the administrative head of the member school or schools. (Copy to be sent to the District Superintendent.)
5. When immediate punitive action is necessary as authorized by the Executive Director under Article IV, Section 5, #5, of the current *DSSAA Handbook,* the action taken will be stated in writing and will be accompanied by a copy of the hearing procedure adopted by the DSSAA.
6. When charges are to be presented to the DSSAA Board of Directors, the charged school will be advised of the meeting date, time, and location and will be provided with an opportunity to respond to the charges.

APPEAL PROCEDURE

Decisions of the Executive Director may be appealed to the DSSAA Board of Directors. After such an appeal, member schools may appeal decisions of the DSSAA Board of Directors to the Delaware State Board of Education.

I. *Initiation of Appeal*

Whenever a right of appeal of any decision to the Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association is provided, an aggrieved person (appellant) who is under the regulatory authority of the DSSAA and who has, in fact, suffered a direct injury due to the decision shall begin the appeal procedure by serving a Notice of Appeal, on the forms provided setting forth the grounds for the appeal, upon the Executive Director of DSSAA. Said Notice of Appeal shall be served by certified mail within thirty (30) days after written notice to the appellant of the decision from which he or she has the right of appeal de novo.

The Executive Director shall docket any appeal received for hearing before the Board of Directors at a regular meeting or special meeting of the Board, which shall be no later than thirty (30) days after the receipt of the notice of appeal.

II. *Procedures for Exceptions to the State Board of Education:*

Notice of exceptions, comments, arguments or appeals to the State Board of Education respecting any proposed order of the Board of Directors shall be filed with the State Superintendent of Public Instruction no later than thirty (30) days after the date of the proposed order. Any proposed order will otherwise be final. All appeals to the State Board of Education shall be on the basis of the record. (See regulations for the conduct of hearings before the State Board of Education pursuant to 14 Delaware Code §1058.)

III. *DSSAA Hearing Procedure*

Decisions of the Executive Director may be appealed de novo to the DSSAA Board of Directors. The Board of Directors has been designated by the State Board of Education to conduct fact-finding hearings or conferences in matters regarding interscholastic athletics. The Board of Directors shall prepare proposed action. If no exceptions, comments, arguments or appeals respecting the proposed orders are submitted in writing to the State Board of Education within thirty (30) days of the date of any proposed order, the proposed order will become final.

The following procedures shall be followed for hearings or fact-finding conferences before the DSSAA Board of Directors.

(a) The Chairman of the DSSAA, or his designated representative, shall be the hearing officer.

(b) The hearing officer shall conduct the hearing and make rulings on the admissibility of evidence.

(c) All parties to the appeal may be represented by counsel.

(d) The Executive Director of the DSSAA shall note in the minutes of the Board meeting the names of the parties appearing and their counsel, if they are represented.

(e) The DSSAA may continue, adjourn, or postpone a hearing for good cause on motion of a party or upon its own motion.

(f) Any party may request the presence of a stenographic reporter on notice to the Executive Director at least seven (7) days prior to the hearing date. Such party shall be liable for the costs of said reporter.

(g) Method of Proceeding:

(1) The parties to the hearing may rest upon their statement, affidavits, and briefs.

(2) The parties may elect to argue before the DSSAA the issues raised in their statements by notice to the Executive Director in writing at least five (5) days prior to the hearing date.

(3) The parties may elect to supplement their statements, affidavits and briefs by the testimony of witnesses but such election shall be in writing, specifying the names of witnesses to be called and the approximate amount of time necessary for said testimony, and shall be served upon the DSSAA Executive Director at least three (3) days prior to the hearing date.

(h) All evidence is admissible which is relevant, material, reliable, and probative but which is not unduly repetitious or cumulative.

(i) Objections to the admission of evidence shall be brief and shall state the grounds for such objections. Objections with regard to the form of question will not be considered.

(j) Any person who testifies as a witness shall be subject to cross-examination by the parties, in an order determined by the hearing officer.

(k) Any witness is subject to examination by members of the DSSAA.

(l) Any documents to be introduced into evidence shall be marked by the Director of the DSSAA and shall be made part of the record of the hearing.

(m) The order of presentation, where a hearing is requested, shall be as follows:

(1) Appellant may offer a statement and/or testimony in his behalf.

(2) The appellee may offer a rebuttal argument and/or testimony in his behalf.

(3) The appellant may then have an opportunity for rebuttal.

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